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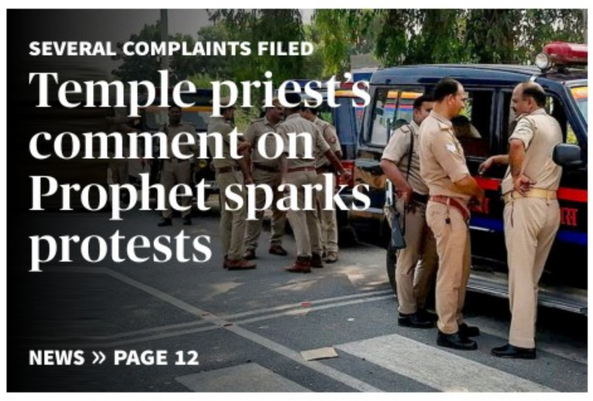

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A three-tier war in West Asia with no endgame

With no way out, Israel chose to escalate

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SUPER SUNDAY

Arundhati stars as India beats Pakistan

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The great gig in the sky

Daring feat: An aerobatic team of the Indian Air Force performing at a mega air show over the Marina beach in Chennai on Sunday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM (REPORT ON PAGE 13)

Apartments, roads flooded after rain

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Apartment basements, residential layouts, and busy roads were inundated after heavy rain on Saturday night, leaving residents and commuters scrambling for solutions.

At Yelahanka, the basement of Kendriya Vihar apartments was flooded, leaving vehicles submerged in water. A 50-ft compound wall collapsed, causing water from the Yelahanka lake to flood the apartment premises.

In the west zone, a 7-ft compound wall of the Park View Apartments collapsed for over a stretch of 10 ft. At Horamavu, Sai Layout, which has seen similar episodes before, was flooded on Friday and Saturday. The residents are planning to protest against the recurring problem remaining unresolved. At Malleswaram too, at least 10 houses were inundated.

FULL REPORT ON
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HC orders autopsy at AIIMS for Bengal child rape victim

Calcutta High Court directs police to add Sections of POCSO Act and produce the accused before the special court; violence had erupted after body of girl was found in South 24 Parganas district

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Sunday expressed concern that charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act have not been included in the investigation of the alleged rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl at Jaynagar in South 24 Parganas of West Bengal.

Justice Tirthankar Ghosh of the High Court directed the police to immediately add the relevant Sections of the Act to the case and transfer the records to the special POCSO court in Baruipur. The court also ordered that the accused be produced before the special court.

The court directed that the post-mortem examination be conducted at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalyani, provided infrastructure is available. The victim's father has requested that arrangements be made for a post-mortem examination at a hospital supervised and controlled by the Union government. The police plea to do the post-mortem at the Mominpur Police Morgue Hospital was turned down by the Magistrate on October 5.

Sukanta Majumdar, Agnimitra Paul and other BJP members during a protest in South 24 Parganas district on Sunday. PTI

Violence had erupted after the body of the girl was found in the Mahismari area of Jaynagar in the early hours of Saturday. Local people attacked a police outpost and set police property on fire. The police resorted to force. There was a scuffle between supporters of Opposition parties and the police outside the Mominpur Police Morgue Hospital where the body was initially brought for post-mortem.

"This court, *prima facie*, is of the opinion, that at the initial stage of investigation prior to the post-mortem examination having been conducted, the inquest report suggest acts of sexual offences being committed upon the person of the deceased, so appropriate provisions of law under relevant statutes should have been incorporated by the investigating agency," the order said.

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NEARBY

Rise in tomato prices leaves a sour taste

BENGALURU
After a brief stable period, tomato prices have shot up again by almost 100% in the last two weeks due to a severe supply crunch in the market.

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Implement caste census report: Hariprasad

BENGALURU
The debate on the caste census report is gaining momentum with several Congress leaders, including B.K. Hariprasad, MLC, demanding its implementation without any further delay.

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EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 9

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*Source: vivo India Impact Report 2023

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Even the 'Ice Queen' can feel the itch of wanting to be on the frontline

For Australia, Jonassen has often been the difference between victory and defeat, swinging close games in her side's favour. The all-rounder was overlooked for the ongoing Women's T20 World Cup, but believes 'there was literally nothing more I could have done to get selected'

GETTY IMAGES

Lavanya Lakshminarayanan

It's not for nothing that Australia all-rounder Jess Jonassen has earned nicknames like 'Ice Queen' and 'Captain Fudge' over the course of her storied career. In the Aussie green and gold, she has often been the difference between victory and defeat, swinging close games in her side's favour. She's defended targets – big and small – often in the death without so much as a bead of sweat on her forehead. A fully fit Jess Jonassen has never missed a World Cup for the Aussies.

But 2024 has tested her like no other. Not only did she find herself benched with the think tank favouring Sophie Molineux instead, she is also missing in action at the T20 World Cup – having been a part of every other triumphant campaign for her side.

Sure, it takes nerves of steel to win games, but it takes something much harder to smile when all you feel inside are the pangs of missing out.

"I'm only human," Jonassen had said at ABC International Development's Cricket Commentary and Mobile Journalism workshop earlier this month.

"It's challenging. I'm obviously disappointed to have missed out but I am proud of myself in that there was literally nothing more I could have done to get selected. I performed well in different competitions around the world – whether that be the WPL or The Hundred.

"It's challenging to be missing out on my first ever T20 World Cup but I am focusing on the positives. I get to be back in Australia, captaining my state, which is something I've missed out on for a while. Australian players haven't usually been available for our 50-over domestic competition. To be able to do that and give back to a team that's given me so much and just being able to go out and enjoy being out on a cricket field...

Door open, blinds shut?

"I've learnt that all I can do is control what can be controlled and forget about what I can't. Selection has been one of those things, but what I can control is my performance and my attitude and work ethic. I'm doing all I can so none of that can be questioned," Jonassen explained.

When Hayley Matthews sucked the wind out of her sails in the bilateral T20I series between West Indies and Australia, Jonassen didn't realise it would be the beginning of one of the hardest phases of her career. The Brisbane Heat skipper registered troubling economy rates of 10 (2 overs in the 1st) and 17 (2 overs in the 2nd, but with Matthews' wicket in the bag) which forced the management to move her out of the playing XI in the 3rd T20I. Sophie Molineux, returning from injury, eventually slotted in for Jonassen who has since been relegated to drinks duty when picked.

The team management constantly maintained that the door remained open for the all rounder and that they were happy with the fight she was putting up. But Australian selection is a dog fight, and Jonassen was left licking her wounds after being overlooked for the Women's T20 World Cup.

It takes her back to how cricket happened for her in Queensland, a journey she describes as 'unique.'

"I just loved every sport and being an Australian, watching cricket on TV or playing cricket in the summer was just what you did. Winter was about football while summer was for cricket. I'm the youngest of three girls in my family. So, I didn't have the traditional Australian upbringing of playing cricket in the backyard with my brothers. I played either with friends or it was just by myself, bowling to some stumps in the backyard trying to dodge the dog.

"I guess young girls in India can particularly relate with my story and probably find it (getting into cricket) harder than some of the things I had to face. But I can empathise with the fact that you sometimes need to work twice or three times as hard just to be noticed."

The women in the Australian setup are as graceful off the field as they are unforgiving on it. You will only ever hear appreciation and praise for a teammate who has beaten you in the perennial musical chairs that cricket careers involve. For Jonassen, Molineux in particular was also involved in denying her a champion's medal at the Women's Premier League with her side Royal Challengers Bengaluru – who were dangerously close to crashing out of the tournament with a week left in the edition – surprising the pack to lift its maiden title the expense of Delhi Capitals – Jonassen's side.

The soon-to-be 32-year-old has seen a few seasons change now and failure doesn't shake her, despite being an emotion this Australian squad is not very used to.

"The Aussie mentality in general is to just give everything a go. The worst thing that can happen to you is you may be bad at it, but you might find something you're really good at too. This is something the Australian dressing room has mastered in the years gone by – embracing all these quirks of those here and understanding that not everyone is the same. Everyone is ultra competitive. It doesn't matter if you're out on the cricket field or you're in the pub and somebody has more of a drink than you do. You want to be first."

Imposter syndrome

That drive has a dark underbelly. No one is or has to be your best friend in a professional space and that sometimes wreaks havoc on one's mental health as Jonassen would eventually find out.

"Early on, I used to think that my whole world revolved around cricket and how I performed. I tied my self worth and sense of identity to it. If I didn't perform, then I felt I wasn't good at anything or I wasn't worthy of whatever it was and I think it took going to some pretty dark places mentally and some low places mentally to realise that. I've learned a lot about gaining perspective. I might get paid and I have a specific job to do but it is just a game at the end of the day and one I happen to be quite good at..."

That maturity also involved learning to blunt the excess emotion that comes with failure and success in sport.

"One thing for me was to try and take emotion out of my decision making. It's so easy to have an emotional reaction to something whether that's good or bad. But try and actually stay as level as you can and, more often than not, you'll end up getting to the result or your desired result sooner. I've had to learn to be kind to myself obviously as an elite sportsperson and probably more so being a female. You always say sorry or you always feel like you need to do more. But the opposite might be true. I am good at what I do. I am good, I am educated. That level of empowerment? You've got to believe it as well."

When the mind wanders, Jonassen immediately reaches for a puzzle or investigative literature. Jonassen is a sucker for psychological thrillers. She even pursued a course in forensic mental health. The reading material she seeks toes this line.

"Stories with a legal background or a murder mystery... I like those kinds of books. They are the only ones to keep me engaged, have different characters and I find myself trying to solve the mystery as we go along in the story. I have a whole room in my house for such stories, not quite a library though. I carry a lot of my reading to go on my Kindle. But there is a physical book in there somewhere to read when in the dressing room where electronics aren't allowed," she explained.

Travelling around the world and finding people of similar life experiences has also helped Jonassen. It's how a blooming friendship with Shikha Pandey, a senior pro overlooked by the Indian setup, happened, starting in the Delhi Capitals setup and extending to the Trinbago Knight Riders dressing room in the Caribbean Premier League.

Back to the drawing board

While Jonassen will undoubtedly cheer for her teammates and the green and gold as they set out to defend their World T20 title, she is back at work with Queensland Fire in the Women's National Cricket League, Australia's national domestic 50-over competition.

Distractions can only do so much. Knowing how competitive Jonassen is, one wonders if the words of the national selector, Shawn Flegler, echo in her ears ever so often.

"JJ's role has not been as strong in the team, and that's probably more to do with players like Ash Gardner, having her game develop and grow quite a bit over that time and taking more of those opportunities that JJ did have," he had said when Australia's squad for the Bangladesh series was announced earlier this year.

If there's one thing the world knows about Jonassen, it's that she likes having a point to prove. With an ODI World Cup coming up next year in India, she'll hope to yank that door to the Australian side wide open.

THE GIST

- Left-arm spinner Jess Jonassen was excluded from Australia's squad for the 2024 T20 World Cup in the UAE
- She has been part of five T20 World Cup triumphs for Australia (2012, 2014, 2018, 2020, 2023)
- She is back at work with Queensland Fire in the Women's National Cricket League, Australia's national domestic 50-over competition
- She also captains Brisbane Heat in the Women's Big Bash League - Australia's franchise T20 tournament and has won the championship twice with the side
- Jonassen has a law degree and has also pursued an education on forensic mental health outside of playing cricket

Downpour causes flooding in many parts of city

South and east regions in Bengaluru saw inundated streets and overwhelmed drainage systems

Rainwater collected at Kendriya Vihar Apartments in Yelahanka on Sunday; (right) residents of the apartments being shifted to a safer place. SUDHAKARA JAIN, PTI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following heavy rainfall on Saturday night, several areas in the city were flooded, and 15 trees and 44 tree branches came crashing down.

The city recorded 10.4 mm of rainfall on Saturday, as per the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

The south and east regions were the worst hit, with flooded streets and overwhelmed drainage systems causing severe congestion. Traffic police were spotted clearing water from roads in an attempt to prevent accidents.

In Yelahanka, the basement of Kendriya Vihar apartments was flooded, leaving vehicles submerged in water as a 50 feet of the compound wall collapsed, causing water from Yelahanka Lake to flood the apartment premises. Water levels rose to about 4 feet during the night. Teams from the BBMP, SDRF, and fire department worked on pumping out the water. Sandbags were placed in the affected areas, and residents provided with food and drinking water.

BBMP personnel clearing debris after the rains at Binnypet in Bengaluru on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In Horamavu, Sai Layout was flooded on Friday and Saturday. Neelufur Aahmad , a resident of the layout talking to *The Hindu* every monsoon this is a problem and on Tuesday the residents are planning to protest.

In the south zone, near Madhuavana in Vijayanagar, an overflowing stormwater drain caused flooding in about 10 homes. In Malleswaram also at least 10 houses were inundated.

Bengaluru-Mysuru highway was no exception, as it too was heavily flooded

Wall collapse

In the west zone, a 7-foot compound wall of the Park View Apartments collapsed over a stretch of 10 feet, while at ETA Mall too, a compound wall collapsed, and action was taken to clear the rubble and provide access.

Several roads were inundated, slowing traffic movement across the city. Kalyan Nagar's service road was once again under water following the heavy overnight downpour. A video posted by Citizens Movement on 'X' warned residents, stating, "Service roads, internal roads, underpasses are heavily waterlogged! Please avoid these! Current scene on Kalyan Nagar Service Road, ORR."

The Electronics City area also faced similar challenges, with roads becoming impassable for commuters. An 'X' handle named Karnataka Portfolio called out Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, questioning,

"The Electronics City toll is flooded after just 20 minutes of rain. Is this the 'Brand Bengaluru' DK Shivakumar is referring to?"

Heavy traffic jams were reported near the Bommasandra Industrial Area due to flooding. Vehicles were stuck for over an hour, with authorities working to clear the floodwater.

The Bengaluru-Mysuru highway was no exception, as it too was heavily flooded, resulting in traffic snarls amid the relentless rain.

'Enormous task ahead to realise Indian Space Vision'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A senior Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) official has said that the space agency has an enormous task ahead to realise the Indian Space Vision 2047, which includes the setting up of Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS) by 2035 and sending Indian astronauts to the moon by 2040.

S. Sivakumar, programme director, Space Transportation System, ISRO, while delivering a talk on 'Space Transportation System –Present and Future' on Sunday said, "The Prime Minister recently declared the Space Vision which talks about sending the first module of the BAS by 2028. We need to have an operation station by 2035 and a lunar fly by 2035 before the actual manned mission to the moon by 2040."

Mr. Sivakumar who is also Project Director, Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), which will play a significant role in realising the two ambitious projects said, "This is an enormous task. In fact, all tasks are completely new to us including building of the space habitat. Also, the lunar landing requires a different dimensioning of the vehicle as well as the systems."

Recently, the Cabinet approved the development of NGLV which will have three times the present payload capability with 1.5 times the cost compared to Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3), and will also have reusability resulting in low-cost access to space and modular green propulsion systems.

The Union government has said that the development of the NGLV is taken up which is designed to have a maximum payload capability of 30 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit, which also has a reusable first stage.

"Currently, India has achieved self-reliance in space transportation systems to launch satellites up to 10 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit and four tonnes to Geo-Synchronous Transfer Orbit through the currently operational Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, Launch Vehicle Mark-3 and Small Satellite Launch Vehicle," it said.

The total fund approved is ₹8,240 crore including development costs, three developmental flights, essential facility establishment, programme management and a launch campaign.

The Hindu Businessline Cerebration Quiz 2024: Suvam Palo wins Bengaluru round

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru regional round of the 21st edition of The Hindu Businessline Cerebration Quiz 2024 took place on Sunday, featuring six participants. After an intense showdown spanning four competitive rounds, Suvam Palo of Fidelity Investments emerged victorious with 55 points. Sethu Madhavan of Capgemini secured second place with 40 points, and Siddharth Mishra of IDFC First Bank came in third with 30 points.

This prestigious corporate quiz championship, organised by The Hindu Businessline, is open to corporate executives, business professionals, and other quiz aficionados, offering a grand prize of ₹1.5 lakh, ₹75,000 for the first prize, ₹50,000 for the second, and ₹25,000 for the third.

The initial online screening round attracted over 3,600 participants, showcasing the quiz's widespread appeal and reach. The competition aims to identify the top quizzing talents from six cities: Chennai, Bengaluru, Kochi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Delhi, culminating in a grand finale.

Raghuvir Srinivasan, Editor, The Hindu Businessline, delivered the welcome address, setting the stage for an engaging morning of quizzing brilliance followed by D. Subhakar, Vice Chancellor, Amity University, Bengaluru, and Sali PS, Vice President, Ritnand Balved Education Foundation, wishing the participants for the regional round.

The quiz was hosted by Ajay Poonia, who kept the audience on the edge of their seats with his quick wit and engaging questions.

Quiz enthusiasts can relive the excitement by watching the top six finalists go head-to-head at https://thbl.news/BLQ2024BSM or by scanning the QR code provided.

The Cerebration Corporate Quiz 2024 is presented by Title Partner JK Tyre, powered by Indian Oil XP95, in association with BSE, while Amity University, Bengaluru, is the university partner.

The quiz, now in its 21st year, has become a hallmark event for the corporate quizzing community in India. Known for its challenging questions and high stakes, it not only brings out the competitive spirit but also serves as a platform for professionals to showcase their knowledge, critical thinking, and quick problem-solving abilities.

Stay tuned as the top winners from each region will now gear up for the grand finale happening on October 20 at Bombay Stock Exchange, Mumbai, where the best minds from across the nation will battle it out for the ultimate title.

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Scientists are working on a way to detect cancer with sound waves

Biopsies are cumbersome, painful, and potentially injurious. Research has found that high-energy ultrasound can break off a small piece of cancerous tissue into droplets and release their contents into the bloodstream. The team could then test the blood for biomarkers specific to cancer

Joel P. Joseph

A technician prepares to use an ultrasonogram device that creates an image of the body's insides using ultrasound waves. ELEN SHER/UNSPLASH

Scientists have developed a new technique to detect cancers. The method uses ultrasound to turn a small part of our body's tissue into droplets that are released into the blood. These bubbles contain molecules like RNA, DNA, and proteins that allow the scientists to identify particular types of cancer.

Roger Zemp, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Alberta, Canada, led a recent study describing such a technique. He presented his team's findings at the joint meeting of the Acoustical Society of America and the Canadian Acoustical Association at Shaw Centre in Canada on May 13.

A summary of the findings was also published in the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* earlier this year.

Break-off, blood, biomarker

Doctors have been using ultrasound to take pictures of internal organs. The technology converts the sound waves reflected by surfaces inside the body to an image, just the way bats use ultrasound to sense their surroundings.

This said, the gold standard to detect many cancers is a biopsy. Doctors extract a small piece of tissue or cells using a large needle from the part of the body where cancer is suspected to be present. In vitro tests can confirm if the tissue or cells are cancerous and, if so, what kind of cancer it is.

Now, Zemp and his colleagues at the university are figuring out a way to use ultrasound to perhaps someday replace biopsies, which are cumbersome, painful, and potentially injurious. They have found that high-energy ultrasound (at frequencies greater than those used in ultrasound scans) can break off a small piece of cancerous tissue into droplets and release their contents into the bloodstream. The team could then test the blood for biomarkers – certain biomolecules like DNA, RNA, or proteins – specific to cancer.

"Ultrasound can enhance the levels of these genetic and vesicle biomarkers in blood samples by over 100-times," Zemp said in a press release. This method could allow clinicians to use blood samples to detect specific cancer types and even the mutations they contain, which are currently undetectable in blood.

He estimated the technique could help clinicians avoid nearly half of all biopsies.

'New kind of readout'

In the most advanced use of the technique, Zemp and his colleagues detected the presence of a single cancer cell circulating in the blood. When cancer progresses and spreads, cancer cells move to parts of the body other than their original site via the blood. But scientists and clinicians have struggled to spot these cells in the blood because they're very small in number. A few tests are still sensitive enough to detect them, but they're expensive. For example, the 'CellSearch' test costs $10,000 (₹ 8.4 lakh).

But Zemp & co. were able to detect a cancer cell in the blood samples of a prostate cancer patient using their technique. The team passed ultrasound waves through blood samples isolated from the cancer patients. The waves shredded the circulating cancer cells and released the biomarkers they contained into the blood. The team looked for and confirmed the presence of these biomarkers. Zemp estimated this version of the test would cost a hundred times less, around $100 (Rs 8,400).

The researchers are now trying to expand their findings to other types of cancer, particularly breast cancer and melanoma.

"We hope our ultrasound technologies will benefit patients by providing clinicians a new kind of molecular readout of cells and tissues with minimal discomfort," Zemp said in the same release.

Needed: large cohorts

Himanshu Shekhar, assistant professor of electrical engineering, and Karla Mercado-Shekhar, assistant professor of biological sciences and engineering, both at IIT Gandhinagar, said the effort was promising and considerably more advanced than previous work in this field.

Doctors use ultrasound to take pictures of internal organs. The technology converts the sound waves reflected by surfaces inside the body to an image, just the way bats use ultrasound to sense their surroundings

"The ability to perform ultrasound-aided detection using drawn blood samples is most exciting because of the simplicity of this approach. The main advantage of this approach is its non-invasiveness, which will prevent patient discomfort," Shekhar said.

Mercado-Shekhar said the approach could be extended to monitoring cancer progression and treatment response. However, she cautioned that more studies in a large cohort of patients would be required before doctors start using this tool in the clinic.

Clinical trials with large cohorts of patients with different types of cancer and healthy people across different ethnic groups and geographies are important to ensure the technique can produce accurate results for different cancer types and prove that it's sensitive to their varying biomarker thresholds.

Brian Tysinger, a research assistant professor of public policy, and Jakub Hlavka, associate professor of population and public health sciences, both at the University of Southern California, underscored this point in an article published by the US National Academies Press in May 2022: "Lack of representative studies on screening for cancer or cardiometabolic disease may lead to recommendations that fail to consider earlier ages or lower biomarker thresholds to start screening that might be warranted in some populations."

About five years

There has been a push of late for more accessible and affordable cancer screening methods.

The U.S. National Cancer Institute recently launched its 'Cancer Screening Research Network'. In 2025, the network will start a pilot study to evaluate a battery of screening tests to spot cancer early and accurately with a cohort of 24,000 people.

The study is expected to be completed in four years.

The network may later support similar trials for screening methods developed by individual research groups, potentially including the ultrasound-based one.

"If results of clinical trials are favourable, the researchers will likely pursue regulatory approval in collaboration with industry partners, and subsequently, this technique could be available commercially in about five years," Mercado-Shekhar said.

(Joel P. Joseph is a freelance science journalist and researcher. joelpjoseph2009@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Ultrasound can enhance the levels of biomarkers over 100-times. This method could allow clinicians to use blood samples to detect specific cancer types and even the mutations, which are currently undetectable in blood

Researchers were able to detect a single cancer cell circulating in the blood. Scientists have struggled to spot these cells because they're small in number. Some tests can detect them but they are extremely expensive

Ultrasound-aided detection using blood samples is important because of its simplicity. The main advantage is its non-invasiveness, which will prevent patient discomfort

BIG SHOT

A staff member stands inside a water tank, part of a complex of underground water discharge tunnels built to protect Tokyo and its suburbs against floods during heavy rain, in Kasukabe, Japan. In addition to its engineering ingenuity, the complex is a popular tourist spot and filming location with 59 massive pillars and its own microclimate. The dim interior, punctuated by spears of natural light from apertures in the ceiling, and towering pillars evoke an ancient religious structure. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Gold: what makes it so desirable?

Vasudevan Mukunth

Gold is a precious metal famed for its use in jewellery and as a form of investment. Its atomic number is 79, and its Latin name is 'aurum', thus its symbol on the periodic table, Au.

Some 10% of all the gold produced around the world is used every year in industry thanks to the metal's many desirable properties. For example, gold doesn't dissolve in strong nitric acid whereas most metals do; this is why the term "acid test" is used to refer to a test of someone's character. Among the noble metals, only platinum is less reactive. Gold does dissolve in a solution of nitric acid and hydrochloric acid that alchemists called aqua regia, or "royal water." It also dissolves in some alkaline solutions and in mercury, is malleable, ductile, corrosion-resistant, and a good conductor of electricity. It is commonly used in industry to form connectors in computers.

South Africa has produced most of the world's gold since the late 19th century, but today the largest producer is China (no. 6 on this list is the small country of Ghana). The cost of extracting and refining gold depends on where it is found, although gold nuggets are typically found in mountainous areas that also have quartz veins.

The Nobel Prize medal. ANGELA WEISS/AP

Each of the Nobel Prizes to be awarded from October 7 will include a medal of electrum, an alloy of gold and silver, plated with 24 carat gold.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of Palestinians killed in Gaza since October 7

41,870 The toll includes 45 deaths in the last 24 hours, according to the ministry, which said 97,166 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip since the war began on October 7. AFP

The number of PTI party supporters arrested in Lahore

30 Over 30 supporters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party were arrested after they managed to reach the Minar-e-Pakistan premises late Saturday night demanding the release of their leader. PTI

Number of people left stranded due to floods in Bangladesh

1 In lakh. At least five people have died so far as devastating floods, triggered by heavy rains and upstream torrents, continue to ravage northern Bangladesh. In Sherpur, the water levels of major rivers have surged, submerging new areas and displacing thousands of families. REUTERS

The Lebanese pupils displaced by Israeli bombardment

40 In per cent. According to Imad Achkar, the Director General of Education, nearly half of Lebanon's 1.25 million school pupils have become displaced as Israel's strikes on Hezbollah strongholds forced more than one million people to flee. AFP

Migrants who crossed the Channel into the U.K. on Saturday

973 This is the highest single-day number of migrants making the cross-Channel journey this year, surpassing the last high of 882. Over 26,600 migrants have crossed the Channel in 2024. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The status of the civil war in Sudan

What is the extent of the war? Where did the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces begin? How have ethnic tensions and rivalries played a part in the war? From where are conflicting parties sourcing their weapons and arms?

EXPLAINER

Anu Maria Joseph

The story so far:
On September 26, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) launched a major offensive against the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Khartoum and Bahri. Thus, the war which was quiet for a few months has gained momentum again. Eighteen months into the civil war, the UN said that more than 20,000 people have been killed. Additionally, the International Organization for Migration has recorded an estimated total of 10,890,722 internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of October 1. All ceasefire efforts and peace talks have failed so far. The latest offensive comes ahead of the U.S.-led ceasefire talks on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Who are the actors in the civil war?
The civil war in Sudan between two military factions, the SAF and the RSF has crossed 18 months. It started as a power rivalry between the military heads of the SAF and the RSF, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Hamdan Dagalo respectively. What began as a conflict in the capital city of Khartoum has spread to Omdurman, Bahri, Port Sudan, El Fasher and the Port Sudan cities, as well as the Darfur and Kordofan states.

The RSF has an upper hand in multiple war zones. However, since August, the SAF has been carrying out frequent airstrikes and has captured pocket regions around Khartoum. The humanitarian crisis is worsening countrywide amidst limited and restricted access to aid and health care, especially in the Darfur states. The warring sides are also accused of carrying out war crimes including sexual violence and extrajudicial killings in several regions. In August, the UN declared famine in the Zamzam camp in North Darfur which hosts nearly 5,00,000 IDPs. The UN-Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Famine Review Committee says that 14 regions in the Greater Darfur, South and North Kordofan, and Jazeera states face conditions similar to Zamzam. According to the latest UN-backed IPC initiative, 25.6 million people, more than half of Sudan's population, face "crisis or worse" levels of food insecurity. Conditions have further worsened amidst heavy rains and floods and the subsequent spread of cholera. The outbreak has killed more than 200 people.

Why is the war continuing?
There is no sign of an end to the war. Firstly, both warring parties are adamant about gaining ground and legitimising their power. The SAF claims to be the legitimate government, with the UN just about recognising their claims, although it came to power through a coup in 2021. However, the RSF has territorial gains around the capital and other war zones. It opposes the SAF's efforts to represent Sudan internationally, claiming legitimacy. The RSF, a former Arab militia known as Janjaweed, seeks alliances from several Arab countries to support its claim to power.

Secondly, Sudan has been under the UN arms embargo, since the 2004 Darfur crisis, which has recently been extended for another year. However, the embargo has not blocked the flow of weapons. A Human Rights Watch report in July claimed that the warring parties have been using armed drones, drone jammers, anti-tank guided missiles, truck-mounted multi-barrel rocket launchers, and mortar munitions produced by companies registered in China, Iran, Russia, Serbia, and the UAE. Easy weapon procurement and use have aided the continuation of the war.

Thirdly, the war has become complex with the involvement of multiple actors and issues. What began as a military rivalry has now evolved through ethnic lines, involving several regional ethnic militias. Arab and non-Arab militias have taken sides with the RSF and the SAF respectively. The rebel group Sudanese People's Liberation Movement has been fighting alongside the SAF. The RSF and its allied Arab militias have been targeting the Masalit community and other non-Arabs in Darfur states. Ethnic tensions have intensified the war.

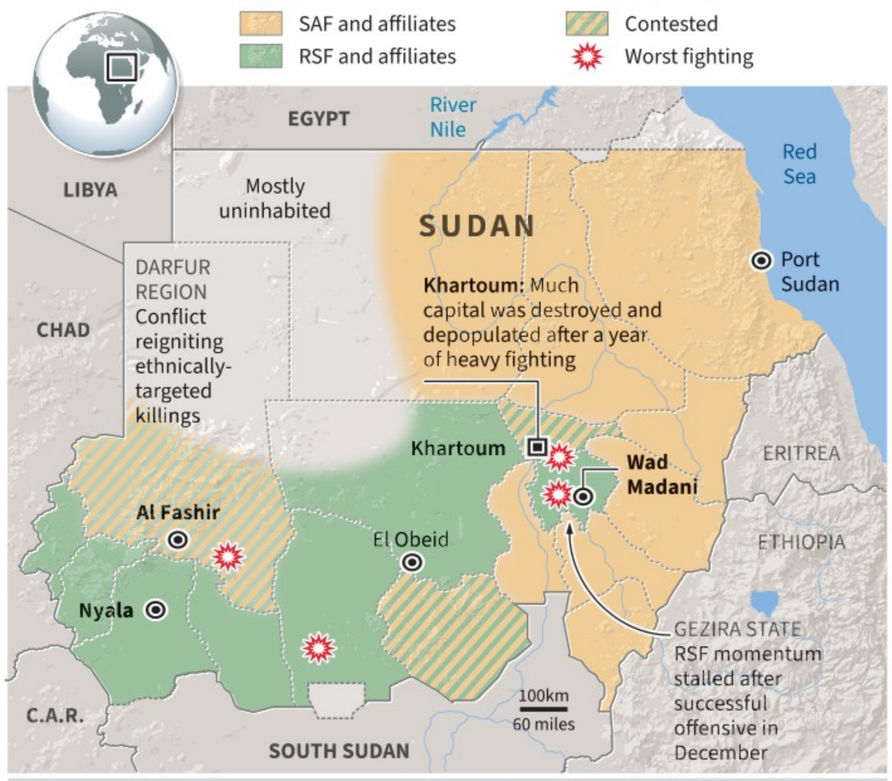
Fourthly, the SAF has accused the UAE and previously Russia's Wagner Group of supporting the RSF. Although the Wagner group and the RSF have rejected any direct military engagement, the group is allegedly supporting the RSF by facilitating the supply of UAE's weapons through the Central African Republic. At the same time, Russia has been supplying weapons to the SAF as well. With abundant external support, both parties have little motive to end the war.

A multifaceted war

The ongoing civil war in Sudan has killed more than 20,000 people, according to the United Nations. Additionally, the International Organization for Migration has estimated a record 10,890,722 internally displaced people in Sudan

To the brink: Displaced people queue for food aid at a camp in Gedaref, Sudan on September 23. AFP

■ **April 15, 2023:** Power struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan (left), and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia, led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti (right), erupted into a full-scale conflict



■ According to the latest UN-backed IPC initiative, 25.6 million people, more than half of Sudan's population, face "crisis or worse" levels of food insecurity

Sources: International Crisis Group, UNOCHA Pictures: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS

Have there been peace talks?
There were nine rounds of ceasefire efforts led predominantly by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia; all failed in their primary phase. On August 14, the latest round of U.S.-led peace talks were held in Geneva, Switzerland. But, neither of the warring parties attended. SAF boycotted the meeting, blaming the RSF for not adhering to the Jeddah Declaration 2023, including the withdrawal of forces from civilian regions. RSF also pulled out from the talks at the last moment.

The UN, the African Union, the U.S., the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and the EU have all urged the parties to end the violence and work together to de-escalate the crisis. Egypt initiated a draft resolution on May 1 at the Arab League meeting in Cairo, calling for an "immediate and comprehensive cessation" of hostilities. Until now, any and all efforts at a long-lasting ceasefire have been ineffective.

The RSF and the SAF claim they are open to negotiations but have shown little commitment to comply. They attempt to gain a military advantage during the ceasefire, owing to mistrust between the parties. Both sides have not reached a possible bargaining stage for an effective mediation.

Another reason is that international media attention to the war on the ground is limited. International organisations' access to war zones is also restricted. With a limited understanding of the conflict on the ground, mediators like the U.S. and Saudi Arabia are challenged to formulate a ceasefire or peace talk which fit the multifaceted war situation.

What are the regional implications?
More than two million people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries including Chad, South Sudan and Ethiopia. The refugee camps are overflown and have raised concerns in Europe that many will attempt to reach the continent. In February, dozens of Sudanese drowned when a migrant boat capsized along the Tunisia-Italy route. A lack of state apparatus and institutions has triggered ethnic clashes along the South Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea borders. Since January, ethnic violence in the Abiey region, a disputed land between Sudan and South Sudan, has increased, with the UN reporting more than 100 casualties. Frequent clashes over agricultural land are reported in the El Fashaga region on the Sudan-Ethiopia border. The war has jeopardised an oil pipeline from South Sudan to the Red Sea.

What next?
The involvement of multiple actors and extended geography has made the war complex, challenging international actors to bring the warring parties to the negotiating table.

Multiple failed ceasefire attempts and peace talks imply the need to revisit international actors' approach to the war in Sudan. Although SAF has been gaining pockets in Khartoum, defeating the RSF is a long road. The RSF lacks international support to claim legitimacy. And, a RSF-SAF compromise is highly unlikely. The war will likely be prolonged until a major breakthrough.

There is an increasing fear that the military rivals will divide the country, leading to a plight similar to that of Libya's. Sudanese people have started to live with the war, and with much attention given to Gaza and Ukraine, the war in Sudan will continue to rage on the sidelines.

The author is a Research Associate at the Africa Studies, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.

THE GIST

The civil war in Sudan between two military factions, the SAF and the RSF has crossed 18 months. It started as a power rivalry between the military heads of the SAF and the RSF, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Hamdan Dagalo respectively.

The war has become complex with the involvement of multiple actors and issues. What began as a military rivalry has now evolved through ethnic lines, involving several regional ethnic militias.

There were nine rounds of ceasefire efforts led predominantly by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia; all failed in their primary phase.

'Strengthen anganwadis to tackle malnutrition'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"India is lagging when it comes to Human Development Index (HDI). Our neighboring countries are seeing some improvement on the index. Although we have plenty of natural and financial resources, we are not seeing improvement; and malnutrition existing in India is the reason for this. Anganwadi centers are working as a bridge to eradicate malnutrition. If these centres continue to function and the education of children is strengthened, then we can jump up on the index," said S. Muralidhar, former Chief Justice of Odisha High Court, on Sunday.

He was speaking at a seminar, 'ICDS From Scheme to Law - towards securing Nutrition and Pre-Primary Education as a Right,' organised by the Save ICDS, Save Children Forum on account of completion of 50 years of the Integrated Child Development Scheme aimed at addressing concerns like malnutrition and developmental needs of young children, pregnant and nursing mothers.

Justice Muralidhar stressed on the need to provide pre-primary education in anganwadi centres. "The number of malnourished children, who are mainly the children of the poor and the oppressed, has increased in India. The government should effectively use anganwadis to tackle malnutrition. To build a strong India, we need to empower anganwadi which strengthen children physically and academically."

'Raise salaries of anganwadi workers'

He also said that at a time when the seeds of caste discrimination, class division and hatred based on religion are being sown from an early stage itself, anganwadi workers have the bigger responsibility in curbing this. Hence, he reiterated that the salaries of the workers should be increased. "Anganwadi workers in various regions have been fighting for gratuity and they have obtained it in some states. Gratuity is their fair right," he said.

'Increase spending on nutrition'

Economist Madhura Swaminathan also spoke at the event and said that the government should increase its spending on the nutrition of children and nursing mothers in anganwadis.

"Although nursing mothers get nutritious food at anganwadis, it needs to be of higher quality. Currently, the government is spending ₹42 per day, and this is not enough for good quality nutritious food and hence, they should increase it to ₹82 per day. They are spending only ₹8 per day on nutrition for children. This is not enough at all, and it should be increased to eradicate malnutrition among children," she said.

Rise in tomato prices leaves a sour taste

The fruit has gotten costlier owing to supply crunch caused by rains and affliction of diseases

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

While the selling price in wholesale markets was around ₹40 a kg, in retail markets, tomato was selling at anywhere between ₹70 and ₹90 a kg on Sunday. FILE PHOTO

It has been a couple of years of highs and lows for tomatoes, a staple fruit in many kitchens. From record highs to as low as ₹10 a kg, the prices have varied. Now, after a brief stable period, tomato prices have shot up again by almost 100% in the last two weeks due to a severe supply crunch in the market.

While the selling price in wholesale markets was around ₹40 a kg, in retail markets, tomatoes were selling at anywhere between ₹70 to ₹90 per kg on Sunday. Even on online retail marts, the selling price was anywhere between ₹80 to ₹100 per kg, depending on the size and quality.

"The price gradually went up over a period of three weeks. With upcoming festivals, it might go up further. There is a supply shortfall in the market as farmers have not cultivated tomatoes much in the State in the last two months due to the rain. Along with that, tomatoes have also been disease ridden which hampers quality and shelf life. Hence, the price has gone up. It might come down after the festival," said Manjunath Reddy, a vegetable trader in K. R. Market.

Rain is not the only reason why tomato cultivation has taken a back seat in the State. The crop has been attacked by one or the other disease in the last few years, according to farmers.

"In the last five to six years, it has been one disease after another for tomatoes. First it was blight, then there was spot disease and for the last two years, it has been *bingi* leaf curl disease which has attacked tomato crop. The disease attacks the plant during the flowering stage and reduces the yield by almost 80 to 90%," explained Nalini Gowda, president, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, Kolar district.

Exports hit

When tomatoes sold at a record price last year, many farmers enthusiastically cultivated the crop. But after making huge investments, they were disappointed by the yield. With the crop getting infected, its shelf life dropped to just 48 hours, thereby even affecting exports.

"We used to export tomatoes to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and other neighbouring countries. We also used to send it to other states in India. But now, even with all the precautions taken by the farmers, tomatoes are rotting within two days. With all these factors, the price rise of tomatoes has been of little to no help to farmers," Ms. Gowda said.

The farmers say officials of the Horticulture Department blame the weather for the diseases that afflict the crop and ask them to spray pesticides. They expect the officers to instead teach them ways to prepare their lands and soil for the next batch of cultivation to prevent diseases.

"Without government support, we will soon see a day where there will be no tomato farmers in Kolar district. I used to grow tomatoes every year on at least two acres of land. Now I have completely stopped this," Ms. Gowda lamented.

No Chinese garlic in Bengaluru markets?

Municipal Commissioner Rayappa and officials inspecting samples of alleged China garlic at the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee in Udupi recently.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the last month or so, there have been a lot of talk about Chinese-grown garlic, which arrived in the markets in the State.

Chinese-grown garlic is more appealing owing to its cheaper price and ease of peeling and crushing. However, this variety is banned in the State due to its high pesticide content. "When a certain variety looks good and is also selling at a lower price, we automatically choose to buy it. The government should create more awareness about its ill effects," said Monica. K, a regular buyer.

After complaints from farmers, government officials recently conducted a raid in Udupi APMC and confiscated five quintals of Chinese garlic. Now, in Bengaluru too, the Food Safety and Standards Department of Karnataka has started inspecting garlic in the APMC.

"The officials came and conducted a survey and for almost 10 days now. We have not seen any Chinese-grown garlic in the APMC. While the shape of this garlic is different from the Indian garlic, the price is lesser by 5 to 10%," said Deepak J. Shah, Secretary of Bengaluru Wholesale Garlic Traders' Association.

The regular Indian garlic is currently selling at ₹200 to ₹360 a kg depending on the quality as there is a slight supply crunch. The price is neither expected to go up or drop in the coming days.

Techie found dead in city, dowry harassment suspected

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 30-year-old woman, Meghana Shetty, who worked as a tech professional, allegedly ended her life late Friday night at her home in Ejipura in Bengaluru. The parents of the victim have alleged that she was being harassed for dowry.

According to the police, Meghana, a native of Kundapura in Udupi district, was married to Sudeep Shetty, a tech professional from Thirthahalli in Shivamogga district. The couple had been married for 2.5 years and had a one-and-a-half-year-old daughter.

Meghana's parents filed a dowry case against Sudeep, alleging that their daughter had been suffering from physical and emotional abuse related to dowry demands.

The police were notified of the incident after Sudeep reportedly discovered Meghana dead in their home. He claimed he was in another room watching television when the tragic incident occurred, the police said.

However, the complaint filed by Meghana's father, Bhujanga Shetty, suggests that she had been enduring dowry-related harassment for several months. The Vivek Nagar police have registered the complaint and taken Sudeep into custody for questioning. The investigation is ongoing.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani on ph:104 for help)

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, OCT. 07	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:05
RISE	09:37 SET 21:08
TUESDAY, OCT. 08	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:05
RISE	10:31 SET 21:59
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 09	
RISE	06:09 SET 18:04
RISE	11:27 SET 22:53

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
31°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be sight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant.. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Newspaper distributors' union calls for registering under new scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As a result of the Karnataka State Newspaper Distributors' Union's persistent efforts, the State government has introduced a new benefit under the Labour Department's Shram Yojana.

Through the Karnataka State Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board, the 'Ambedkar Workers' Assistance Scheme' has now been extended to all newspaper distributors. The union has urged all distributors to immediately register under this scheme. The official website link for registration will be shared with all concerned.

The Karnataka State Newspaper Distributors' Union has described this as another milestone achievement for newspaper distributors, offering much-needed support.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI
E-mail : sernbphulbani@gmail.com

1st Corrigendum to Invitation For Bids (IFB)/Tender Call Notice Vide Bid Identification No.CCE_R and B_PLB_03 of 2024-25 vide No.1382 dtd.19.09.2024

No. 1470 // Dated : 04/10/2024

The following change is made in the BOQ of the work "Strengthening of Chataranga- Harabhanga Road Ch 0/000 km to 6/027 km in the district of Boudh for the year 2024-25" tender invited vide this office Bid Identification No. CCE_R and B_PLB_03 of 2024_25.

Sl No. of BOQ	Item Description	Unit (as in the BOQ)	Unit (Shall be replaced with)
1	2	5	5
1	Road Proper Clearing and grubbing road land including uprooting vegetation, grass, bushes, shrubs, saplings and trees girth upto 300mm, removal of stumps of trees cut earlier and disposal of unserviceable materials and stacking of serviceable materials to be used or auctioned, upto a lead of 1000m including removal and disposal of top organic soil not exceeding 150mm in thickness as per section 200, clause 201 of the MoRT&H Specifications for Road & Bridge works (5th Revision) including all cost i.e cost of all materials, all labour, all T&P etc complete and as per direction of the Engineer-in-charge.	Cum	Sqm

The Addendum/ Corrigendum, if any, will be hosted in the website htpp://tendersodisha.gov.in. All other terms & conditions stipulated in the Original tender call notice vide the above Bid Identification No. remains unchanged.

Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani.
B-389 : OIPR-34129/11/0006/2425

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office GESCOM, Kalaburagi.
Mobile No : 9880103581, E-mail: gescom.ddugjy@gmail.com

No: GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE(Proj)/EE/AEE/AE-2/24-25/34463-97 Date: 04-10-2024

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited, Kalaburagi invites tender for the work of **"Construction of New 11KV Link Lines from various Sub-Stations/Overloaded feeders in GESCOM Jurisdictions in following O&M Division of Hospet Urban Division on Total Turnkey Basis"** bidding from eligible bidders through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on Percentage Basis.

1) Tender Enquiry Nos.: **No:GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE(Proj)/EEE/AEE/AE/2024-25/11KV Link Line/HPT Call-2/454,** 2) Appx. Amount **(in Crs)** : **3.91**

The bid documents will be available in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **07/10/2024** the prospective bidders can obtain further details from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., (Operations),
Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/497/KSMC&A/2024-25

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DIPTI, D/o Dharmvir Singh, R/at House No.26, Ganesh Layout, M S Palya, Bengaluru -560097, have changed by name from Dipti to Deepti vide affidavit dated 04/10/2024 before Notary S.R.Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

I, KURAVA Laxmi mother of K.Sreenivasulu resident of H No.32, Dwaraka Nagar, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560063 have changed my name from KURAVA Laxmi to KURUVA Lakshmi vide affidavit dated 17/09/2024 sworn before Notary S.R.Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

I, K.SRINIVASULU resident of H No.32, Dwaraka Nagar, Yelahanka, Bangalore -560063 have changed my Son's name from K Dheekshith to Kuruba Dharannvarrdan vide affidavit dated 17/09/2024 sworn before Notary S R Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

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TENDERS

Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14.
Ph: 0487- 2459807, 2459842
E- TENDER NOTICE
P2/139/2024-25 07.10.2024
E-tenders are invited from eligible bidders for the Supply of **Sautiner with Stirrer (6 nos.)** Last Date **21.10.2024.** You can download tender documents from **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.** For more details visit **www.oushadhi.org** or contact Purchase Department.
(Sd/-) Managing Director

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 57TH ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BENGALORE (CCH-58)
OS NO. 26185/2023

BETWEEN :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Represented by its officer and Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G., Aged about 48 years, S/o. Guru Mallappa, Fxncol@yahoo.com.in. Phone No. 8050030754
...PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
MR. JAGADISH L.
...DEFENDANT

Summons/Notice through Paper Publication Application U/o 5, Rule 20(1)(A) R/W 151 CPC

Mr. Jagadish L.
S/o. Lakshminarayana
Aged about 32 Years
No. 759, Ahimsha, 17th "B" Cross, JP Nagar, 6th Phase, Nr. Bank of India
BANGALROE- 560078

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount Rs. 3,80,147.03/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Eighty Thousand One Hundred Forty Seven and Paise Three only) together with interest at the rate 24% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.
You are hereby summoned to appear before O.S. No. 26185/2023 in Hon'ble 57th Addl. City Civil and Session Judge, Mayohall, (CCH-58), At Bangalore, Court in person or by an advocate / pleader on 25/11/2024 at 11:00 AM to answer the question of the same. Faling which the matter will be heard and determined as "EX-PARTE".
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 03rd day of October, 2024.

By the Order of the court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court
Mayo Hall
BENGALURU- 560 001

Advocate for Plaintiff
FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No. 99, Old No. 1 1/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 58)
O.S. NO. 26184/2023

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, Mittal Tower, M. G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its officer and Power of Attorney Holder Ms. Pramod G, Aged about 48 years, S/o. Guru Mallappa, Fxncol@yahoo.co.in
Phone No. 8050030754
...Plaintiff
Versus :
Mr. Beegam Nikhil
...Defendant

Summons / Notice through Paper Publication Application U/o 5, Rule 20(1)(A) R/W 151 CPC

Mr. Beegam NikhiL
S/o. Bhaskar Naidu, Aged about 33 Years, No. 20, 1t Floor, 5th Cross, Gayathri Layout, Basavanapura Nr. Cambridge University Bank Gate Road Devasandra, K. R. Puram Bangalroe-560 036

WHEREAS, The above named Plaintiff has instituted a case against you for recovery loan amount Rs. 4,11,471/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Seventy One only) together with interest at the 24% p.a., from date of due till the date of realization.
You are hereby summoned to appear before O.S. No. 26184/2023 in Honble 57th addl. City Civil and Session Judge, Mayohall (CCH-58), At Bangalore, Court in person or by an advocate/ pleader on 25/11/2024 at 11.00 A.M to answer the question of the same. Faling which the matter will be heard and determined as "EX-PARTE".
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 03rd day of October, 2024.

By the order of court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall,
Bengaluru-560001

Advocate for plaintiff
FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No. 99, Old No. 11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD (In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	(North East)	BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/2062/2024-25 Date: 04.10.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 15,37,107/- Rs. 19,250/-	22.10.2024 upto 4.00 PM	24.10.2024 After 3.00 PM
2		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/2064/2024-25 Date: 04.10.2024	Rs. 23,53,242/- Rs. 50,000/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/2066/2024-25 Date: 04.10.2024	Rs. 9,92,981/- Rs. 24,850/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/2068/2024-25 Date: 04.10.2024	Rs. 12,17,111/- Rs. 30,450/-		
5		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/2070/2024-25 Date: 04.10.2024	Rs. 17,15,608/- Rs. 42,900/-		
6		BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/2072/2024-25 Date: 04.10.2024 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs. 10,03,072/- Rs. 12,600/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-East)

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

7	West-1	BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/2776 /2024-25 Date: 05.10.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 61,23,099/- Rs. 61,300/-	24.10.2024 upto 4.00 PM	25.10.2024 After 4.30 PM
8		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/2775 /2024-25 Date: 05.10.2024	Rs. 73,05,366/- Rs. 1,46,200/-		
9		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/2774 /2024-25 Date: 05.10.2024 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs. 25,03,242/- Rs. 25,100/-		
10		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/2773 /2024-25 Date: 05.10.2024	Rs. 23,00,488/- Rs. 50,000/-		
11		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/2772 /2024-25 Date: 05.10.2024	Rs. 60,38,879/- Rs. 1,20,800/-		
12		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/2771 /2024-25 Date: 05.10.2024	Rs. 38,62,968/- Rs. 77,300/-		
13		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/2770 /2024-25 Date: 05.10.2024	Rs. 54,94,721/- Rs. 1,09,900/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-1)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/2398/Zen/2024-25

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CACHE

Under the scanner: Founder and CEO of Telegram Pavel Durov. REUTERS

How has Telegram changed its stance on content moderation policy?

On September 24, Telegram CEO Pavel Durov announced definitive changes to Telegram's privacy policy, saying they will now provide authorities with user data including phone numbers and IP addresses in response to valid legal requests

Sahana Venugopal
Poulomi Chatterjee

The story so far:

In the first week of September, Telegram quietly edited out language from its FAQ page that stated private chats were protected and that they "do not process any requests related to them." The answer to a section titled, "There's illegal content on Telegram. How do I take it down?" has now been altered to include directions on how to report illegal content and messages. It also turned off a 'People Nearby' feature that helped users find and message other users in the vicinity, and replaced it with a "Businesses Nearby" feature instead, allowing "legitimate, verified businesses" to display products and accept payments.

What happened?

On September 24, Telegram CEO Pavel Durov announced definitive changes to Telegram's privacy policy, saying they will now provide authorities with user data including phone numbers and IP addresses, in response to valid legal requests.

The move, Mr. Durov said, intends to "deter criminals from abusing" the platform's search function that was being abused to "sell illegal goods," he added. In the past, Telegram had agreed to supply information on terror suspects as per policy, but now it covers criminal activities in general. The company will disclose if it provided user information to authorities, in its quarterly transparency reports.

Additionally, Mr. Durov said that platform moderators will be using AI to identify and remove "problematic content" from Telegram's search feature.

How do other end-to-end messaging apps moderate content?

In 2021, post the January 6 riots at the U.S. Capitol, employees of the Signal app internally raised concerns that the app wasn't doing all they could to stave off abuse, with reports showing a surge of users on Telegram and Signal.

Signal is owned by a non-profit and doesn't sell ads or user data, or even collect demographic or personal details around users – other than phone numbers. Given that all groups and direct messages on the platform are encrypted, the company has taken a similar approach to Telegram in content moderation by saying they don't want to find out how the app is being used, and that knowing would be the antithesis to its encrypted nature.

But Telegram offers more features than Signal that make the app a go-to place for anti-social elements. For example, Telegram enables mass communication, allowing groups to have up to 2,00,000 members, making the platform a hotbed for those exchanging child sex abuse media, terror-related content, and misinformation. By comparison, rival end-to-end encryption messaging apps like Signal and Meta-owned WhatsApp both allow up to 1,000 people in a group.

Signal doesn't advertise these groups within the app, but Telegram has a search feature which makes it easier to find a publicly visible forum by looking up a specific hashtag or term. This makes it child's play to find groups posting hateful content. The deluge of users to these apps and others like Parler put them under fire from several activists, but Telegram was closer to the threshold of amplifying these groups even more. Despite being marketed as a messaging app, these features make Telegram behave more like a social media platform. So, while it isn't that Signal followed any specific content moderation policies, it is more that Telegram's features raised a greater number of red flags.

Meanwhile, WhatsApp's claim of end-to-end encryption has often been questioned. The messaging app is known to hand over metadata to law enforcement agencies, while Meta has a long history of being hungry for user data. Regardless of the user's privacy settings, WhatsApp collects user metadata. The app has at least 1,000 content moderators who are able to view some messages if the recipient reports them. WhatsApp disclosed in its terms of service that once an account is reported, it "receives the most recent messages" of the group or user in question as well as "information on your recent interactions with the reported user." While the clause doesn't mention it, this could include the user's IP address, mobile phone, phone number, profile photos, and linked Facebook and Instagram accounts.

What are the obligations imposed on intermediaries operating in India?

Intermediaries such as social media or messaging platforms operating in India are expected to comply with national regulations and respond promptly to complaints regarding unlawful content.

However, there is a provision that may give tech or social media platform executives a safe harbour of sorts, in the face of legal action.

Section 79 in The Information Technology Act, 2000, states that "no person providing any service as a network service provider shall be liable under this Act, rules or regulations made thereunder for any third party information or data made available by him if he proves that the offence or contravention was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence or contravention."

In simpler language, a person who is providing a social media or messaging platform shall not be liable under the Act if they prove that they were not aware of offending third-party content being made available on their platform, or if they did their best to stop such offences from taking place.

This means that an individual such as Telegram CEO Pavel Durov could potentially defend himself in India by saying that he is not responsible for unlawful content posted by others on the network that he provides as a service. However, Mr. Durov would be obliged to quickly remove such content once it comes to his notice, and Telegram must have preventive measures in place.

The IT Act also gives the government power to notify the intermediary that unlawful content is live. Intermediaries must quickly respond by disabling access to the content. This can be useful when one is, for example, trying to get explicit deepfakes or highly personal leaked media removed from digital platforms, as tech companies are mandated to act quickly. At the same time, there are concerns about censorship and governments unduly pressuring tech companies to remove content critical of it. In compliance with India's IT regulations, Telegram has a designated grievance officer, in order to deal with "public content which is not in accordance with the applicable IT regulations," per its website.

Other intermediaries such as Meta and Google also have grievance officers whom Indian users can contact.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on Mithun Chakraborty, who has been awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Mithun's first released film won him the National Award for Best Actor. Name the film and the legendary director who made it.

QUESTION 2
The film that fans identify him most with was the 1982 flick directed by Babbar Subhash and had foot-tapping music by Bappi Lahiri.

QUESTION 3
Mithun also won two more National awards, with one of them being for essaying the role of an Indian mystic. Name the mystic.

QUESTION 4
Name the chain of hotels that he owns in places like Ooty, Siliguri, etc.

QUESTION 5
Which African country issued a stamp in his honour in 2010?

QUESTION 6
Mithun was parodied in a 2008 comic book written by Saurav Mohapatra, with art by Anupam Sinha. Name the character based on him.

QUESTION 7
According to IMDB, he turned down the offer to play the lead in which Mani Ratnam film because it would have required cutting his long hair?

Visual question:
Though a member of the ruling BJP now, which party nominated him to the Rajya Sabha in 2014? MOORTHY R.V.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The reason why the Nobel Committee thought Jimmy Carter ought to have received the prize earlier. **Ans: He successfully mediated a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel (the Camp David Accords)**
2. At the end of Carter's presidency, U.S. diplomats and citizens were taken hostage in this country as he U.S. had granted admission to this deposed leader. **Ans: Iran; Mohammad Reza Pahlavi**
3. The site of the worst nuclear accident in U.S. history. **Ans: Three Mile Island**
4. This village in Haryana was renamed as this on the instructions of Morarji Desai in 1978. **Ans: Carterpuri**
5. In 1978, Carter was warned by this politician that Ted Kennedy might run against him in 1980. **Ans: Joe Biden**
Visual: The reason why the statue is a peanut. **Ans: Jimmy Carter was a peanut farmer**
Early Birds: Sonali Das| Tamal Biswas| M. Suresh| Mahmood Lebbai

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

He has chalked up yet another deal

I don't know how or why they became friends. They are like chalk and cheese

S. Upendran

"Everything okay? Bharath told me that you didn't go for your usual early morning walk."

"Lost track of time. I was busy reading this."

"Isn't that your favourite author's latest novel? When did you buy it?"

"Didn't buy it. Borrowed it from Sujatha."

"I see. Is the novel as good as his previous one? You finished that one in one sitting."

"Chalk and cheese, my friend. Chalk and cheese."

"Chalk and cheese? What are you talking about?"

"When you say that two things or people are like chalk and cheese, what you're suggesting is that they are very different."

"The two are so different from each other that there's no point in comparing them."

"Very good! That's exactly what it means. *Ram and Shyam may be brothers, but they are like chalk and cheese.*"

"How about this example? *My new boss' style of management is very different from the old one. It's like chalk and cheese.*"

"Good example! Comparing my interests with those of my sister's is like comparing chalk and cheese. The two of us have nothing in common."

"I agree with you completely. She has absolutely no interest in sports, does she? Anyway, whether you like your favourite author's latest novel or not, I'm told it's a bestseller."

"That, it is. The man has chalked up another success."

"Chalked up? What does it mean?"

"The expression 'chalked up' is mostly used in informal contexts to mean to achieve something significant. You've done something noteworthy."

"I see. *The star batsman chalked up a double century and helped his team win the match.*"

"That's a good example."

"My uncle chalked up 40 years of teaching at the same college."

"That is amazing. Nobody wants to stay in the same place nowadays."

"I came across an interesting word yesterday. It was spelt s..h..a..r..e..n..t.

"It's a combination of 'share' and 'parent'. Any idea what 'sharent' means?"

"Kids sharing parents?"

"Afraid not! Nowadays, we find that some parents share a lot of information about their children. Not just with relatives and friends, but also with total strangers."

"Are you thinking about those people who post a lot of pictures of their kids on the Net?"

"Exactly! A sharent is a parent who posts frequently on the social media about their kids.

"The couple next door are sharents. They post photos of their baby every day."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Strafe:
an attack of machine-gun fire or cannon fire from a low flying airplane

Usage: *It seemed that the plane was going to swoop down and strafe the town.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/strafepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /stɹeɪf/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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Department of Health & Family Welfare

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6th Floor, ArogyaSoudha, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru- 560023.
E-mail: **jeevasarthakathe@gmail.com**, Mob : 9845006768, 23295636/2329563

No : JDM/SOTTO Computer No. 1312482 **Date: 05/10/2024**

Inviting applications for the Advisory Committee members under SOTTO (JEEVASARTHAKATHE)

State Organ Tissue & Transplant Organization (SOTTO) re-constituting Advisory Committee, As per the "The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissue act,1994(42 of 1994) section 13-A", Advisory Committee to advise Appropriate Authority. Please refer to **www.jeevasarthakathe.karnataka.gov.in & https://hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in/**

The Criteria of the eligible Candidates is as follows:

Sl. No	Name of the Member designation and address as per The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissue act, 1994(42 of 1994) section 13-A".	No. of Members
1	Two eminent social workers of high social standing and integrity, one of whom shall be from amongst representatives of women's organization	2
2	One legal expert who has held the position of an Additional District Judge or equivalent	1
3	One person to represent non-governmental organizations or associations which are working in the field of organ or tissue donations or human rights.	1
4	One specialist in in the field of human organ transplantation provided he is not a member of the transplantation team.	1

Eligible candidate shall submit hard copy of application along with relevant documents to office of Joint Director (Medical) and Member Secretary, SOTTO (Jeevasarthakathe), 6th Floor, Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, 1st cross, Bengaluru – 560023. Last date for submission of applications is **28/10/2024 at 5.30 PM.**

* Eligible members should submit the one set of self attested copies (XEROX), 2 copies of updates CV and latest passport size photo.
* The selection will be made on as per act with experience analysis
* It's purely on Honorary basis.
* Eligible members should have speaking, reading, writing proficiency in Kannada and English.
* The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all applications of the notification at any stage of recruitment without assigning any reasons thereof.
* Refer as per Act.

Sd/-
Joint Director (Medical) and Member Secretary,
SOTTO (Jeevasarthakathe), Bangalore

DIPR/CP/2399/Zen/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase residential House Property bearing New No.1/24, Old No.1-E-1, presently bearing BBMP PID No.91-89-1/24, situated at Assayee Road, Civil Station, Bangalore, hereinafter referred to as the **"Schedule Property"** and being more fully described in the Schedule hereunder, from its owner **Mrs.Miriam Josephine Elizabeth** Contractor. If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim in respect of the Said Property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Residential House Property bearing **Site New No.1/24,** Old No.1-E-1, presently bearing BBMP PID No.91-89-1/24, situated at **Assayee Road, Civil Station, Bangalore,** now presently within the limits of BBMP, Bangalore and site measuring East to West **61.09 Feet** and North to South **28.55 Feet,** totally measuring **1776 Sq feet or 167 Sq Meters** with a common passage on the South by 12 ½ feet by 31' 7", together with a RCC Roofed building and bounded by:

East : Property of Sri.V.Krishnamurthy, West : Remaining portion of 1/E, North : Property of Sri.Abbayanna, South : Remaining common passage measuring 12½ feet by 31.7 feet.

Rashmi.R, B.A.L LL,B
M/s. Rashi Legal,
Advocates and Legal Consultants,
No.B2-1250/51, Manu Teja Towers,
A.Dasarahalli, Magadi Main Road,
Bangalore 560 079. M-9538178060

PUBLIC NOTICE

To whomsoever it may concern

The general public is hereby informed that my client is interested in entering into a development and operations agreement for the property known as "Cliffton Park", situated on converted Site Nos. 210, 211, 212 and 213 in Survey Nos. 17 & 23 of Byrashettihalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk. The property includes a large Club House with a Restaurant Hall, attached Kitchen, two air-conditioned Conference Halls, a Swimming Pool, a separate building block with Gymnasium Rooms for both ladies and gents, Indoor Sports Rooms, an Artificial Lake with two twin cottages on its bank, and a surrounding party area, which is more fully described in and referred as Schedule Property below. We are given to understand that the **Schedule Property** is currently owned by M/s Syndicate Estates and Properties, a partnership firm having its registered office at No. 664, M.E.S. Road, Jalahalli, Bengaluru- 560013.

The due diligence for the transaction is currently underway. If anyone wishes to submit a better offer or has any claims, objections, or interests concerning the Schedule Property, they must report the same to the undersigned within seven days from the date of this publication. Failure to do so will result in my client proceeding to complete the transaction with the current owner, as if there are no third-party claims, objections, or disputes regarding the Schedule Property. After this period, no further claims, objections, or disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the large Club House having Restaurant hall with attached Kitchen and two number air conditioned conference hall in the first floor, swimming pool, Separate building Block having gymnasium room for ladies and gents, indoor sports rooms, Artificial lake, two no's twin cottages on the bank of the lake with party area around the lake situated at "CLIFFTON PARK" formed in converted site Nos. 210, 211, 212 and 213 in Survey No. 17 & 23 of Byrashettihalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk.

Sd/- **Vruksha Law Chambers**
Ground Floor, Chitrapur Bhavan, 15th Cross,
8th Main Road, Malleshwaram,
Bengaluru-560055.
Email ID: varun@vrukshalawchambers.com
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DON'Ts
• **Don't panic -** fraudsters may trap you
• **Don't share** any personal/financial information
• **Don't click** on unknown links for making payments
DO's
• **Always verify** the genuineness of the caller/fund request
• **Immediately report** to cybercrime.gov.in or call **1930** for help
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More Congress leaders seek implementation of caste census report

If the report's implementation will lead to the fall of the government, let it collapse: Hariprasad

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The debate on the Socio-economic and Educational Census – popularly known as caste census in Karnataka – is gaining momentum with several Congress leaders demanding its implementation without any further delay.

On Sunday, senior Congress leader B.K. Hariprasad, MLC, said the government should implement the caste census report at any cost, even if it resulted in the fall of the government.

Speaking after releasing the book *Meesalatiya Olamukha* (the inner face of reservation) here, Mr. Hariprasad said the Congress had announced in its poll manifesto that the caste census report would be implemented in Karnataka.

"There is no point in further delaying its implementation by the government. If there are minor discrepancies in the caste census report, they should be discussed and corrected. I have been saying this since the beginning and I am still saying it. If its implementation will lead to the fall of the government, let it fall. There should be no compromise on this issue and implementing the caste census report will benefit everyone and help the development of backward communities," he said.

B.K. Hariprasad speaking to presspersons in Bengaluru on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hitting back at former MP D.K. Suresh's statement that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah should take a cautious step on the issue of caste census, Mr. Hariprasad said: "I do not know who has warned. Our leader Rahul Gandhi has again said yesterday that the report would be implemented even if the world is divided. I think Mr. Suresh should go through the manifesto and speak. Those who have respect for the Congress manifesto, those who have respect for what Rahul Gandhi has said have to agree," he said.

"The Congress was started by 77 people initially. Under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, Dalits, women, the working class and those from major communities were included, and the party grew in size. Now, if the caste census is accepted, the party will get strength from the backward classes as well," he said.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara said the delay in releasing the caste census report could have been due to some unavoidable reasons.

"It is now being placed in the Cabinet. With the government having spent around ₹160 crore on caste census, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) may raise objections. The CAG can question the government on the expenses if the report is not released," he said.

Housing, Wakf and Minority Welfare Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan also spoke about Mr. Gandhi announcement on implementing the caste census report.

"This is not something that our Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is telling now. I do not know if it is being taken up in the Cabinet for discussion. I have only learnt this from the media. Our party high command – Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge – have announced this before the Lok Sabha elections itself. When they have decided, we cannot cross the line," he said.

'To divert attention'

Meanwhile, speaking to media persons in Mysuru, BJP State unit president B. Y. Vijayendra alleged that the Chief Minister himself had brought up the issue of caste census report only to divert public attention from the controversy over alleged irregularities in allotment of MUDA sites to his wife.

"If the Chief Minister had genuine concern to implement the caste census report, then he could have done it in the previous term itself. Why did he not do?," he wondered.

Ready for debate on my stint as CM: HDK

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday said he was open for a debate on his performance during his previous 14-month stint as Chief Minister. "Let there be a debate on my performance and the Congress government's performance," he said.

Speaking to presspersons here on Sunday, he said: "They [Congress] have been alleging that I was not able to ride the horse given to me. I challenge Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, let us debate on my performance during my tenure in the 14-month Congress-JD(S) coalition government and your performance in the last 15 months. You will know how I had performed with just 38 legislators and with lack of proper cooperation from your party," he said.

H.D. Kumaraswamy, Union Minister, speaking during his visit to Channapatna on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> The debate will reveal how I performed with just 38 legislators and with the lack of proper cooperation from Congress.
>
> **H.D. KUMARASWAMY,** Union Minister

Alleging that the government was not bothered about people's problems, the Union Minister said there was no solution to the people's miseries caused by heavy rains.

"The government is surrounded by scams and is busy running about to come out of them. They have no concern for people's problems," he alleged.

The government should take up development works and come to the rescue of farmers, who were struggling following untimely rains, he said.

Ridiculing the Chief Minister for asking people if they would forgive the Opposition parties for dragging his wife into the MUDA controversy, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "Actually, you should ask people if they will forgive you for the scam. It is you who has misused power under your wife's name."

I am being targeted for not compromising on social justice, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday reiterated that he is being targeted as he is not the one who compromises on social justice.

Speaking after releasing a book on former MP V.S. Ugrappa, the Chief Minister said that both he and Mr. Ugrappa believe in social justice. "We will not compromise on social justice at any cost. It is for this reason that the Opposition is trying to tarnish my image. But, I will not allow them to succeed in their efforts," he said.

First copy: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and writer Baragur Ramachandrappa releasing a book on V.S. Ugrappa, former MP, on Sunday in Bengaluru.

On Saturday, Mr. Siddaramaiah, who is facing a probe over alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by MUDA to his wife, reiterated that he would not resign on "false allegations".

"There is no question of succumbing to a conspiracy hatched by the Opposition BJP and JD(S) to destabilise a government helmed by the son of a shepherd," he had said.

"The BJP and the JD(S), unable to tolerate the fact that I have become the Chief Minister twice, have joined hands and are hatching a conspiracy against me," he had said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Second time unlucky

Having missed the party ticket for the second time, Pramod Madhwaraj (*in picture)* appeared subdued when he came to the BJP Dakshina Kannada district party office last week. He was to accompany party candidate Kishor Kumar Puttur to file the nomination for the byelection to the Karnataka Legislative Council from the Dakshina Kannada Local Authorities constituency for which he too was an aspirant.

Mr. Madhwaraj sat on a chair behind the handful of reporters assembled at the party office's conference hall. A couple of reporters went to him and asked him what were his prospects, having been denied the ticket for the second time, the first being the Lok Sabha election. "It's all left to the God," he replied in a resigned tone.

Soon, MP for Dakshina Kannada Capt. Brijesh Chowta, BJP MLAs, and other leaders came to the venue. They persuaded Mr. Madhwaraj, a prominent leader from the Mogaveera (fishermen) community, to share the stage with Mr. Puttur.

Mr. Madhwaraj had earlier this year taken part in the campaign for Kota Srinivas Poojary in the Udupi-Chickmagaluru Lok Sabha constituency, after being denied the ticket.

"There will be aspirants. But once a candidate is declared, aspirants in the party join to work for the victory of the official candidate," said Udupi BJP chief Kishore Kumar Kundapur while lauding Mr. Madhwaraj for his presence.

It did not appear like it was much to solace to Mr. Madhwaraj.

Vegetable baskets and political jibes

Many political leaders these days ask event organisers to present them with things such as books instead of flowers when they are invited as guests. Recently, when the KPCL combined cycle gas plant at Yelahanka in Bengaluru was inaugurated, BJP's local MLA S.R. Vishwanath (*in picture)* presented the guests, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, with huge baskets of vegetables. According to sources, the baskets had around 30 kg of various kinds of vegetables that are grown around Yelahanka. Not

that this unique style of hospitality saved Mr. Vishwanath from taunts, some good-humoured and some serious. When Mr. Siddaramaiah reiterated that he would not resign from his post and asked the crowd if he should, the crowd shouted, "No." The Chief Minister then turned to the MLA and said, "Did you hear, Vishwanath? They are telling me not to resign!"

Mr. Shivakumar and Energy Minister K.J. George also told Mr. Vishwanath how no work was done on the gas plant in the previous BJP government's term. When it was his turn to speak, Mr. Vishwanath did not spare them either. "Siddaramanna and DK anna", the MLA said, had not given him enough grants for the development of his constituency.

Raghava M.
Jahnavi T.R.

BJP still being labelled anti-Dalit: Santhosh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP national general secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santhosh on Sunday expressed concern that the party was still being labelled as "anti-Dalit" by some people despite the party ensuring that two Dalit leaders were made the country's Presidents when it was in power.

Participating in a programme organised to felicitate BJP leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy in Bengaluru by SC/ST Dalits Graduates' Association, Mr. Santhosh said: "If you read 10 newspapers, at least two will still label the BJP as anti-Dalit in their centre pages even now."

He said the BJP had appointed A.P.J. Abdul Kalam as the country's President when the party reached the stage of influencing the decision-making process for the first time. "But still the party is being labelled as anti-Muslim," he said.

Honour: Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy being felicitated in the presence of party leaders B.L. Santhosh and B.Y. Vijayendra in Bengaluru on Sunday.

'In *garbha gudi*'

"Some people still allege that the BJP does not allow others to the *garbha gudi* (*sanctum sanctorum*). But I want to tell those making such allegations that Chalavadi Narayanaswamy is very much inside the *sanctum sanctorum*."

He expressed concern over the division of two prominent organisations – Dalit Sangharsha Samiti and Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha which were formed with great ideals. "If these organisations were not fragmented, their power would have been much more. Even if they are divided, their voice should remain the same without any division," he said while recalling the emphasis laid by B.R. Ambedkar on the need to strengthen through orgnisation.

This is in spite of the party ensuring that two Dalit leaders were made the country's Presidents when it was in power, he says

Chalavadi on Congress

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Narayanaswamy said the BJP had recognised his worth and given him prominent responsibility of being the Leader of the Opposition in the Council when he had become an "orphan child" in politics. He alleged that the Congress had not politically identified him though he had served that party for over 40 years.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra also spoke on the occasion.

Former Congress MLA's brother goes missing, search on

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

B.M. Mumtaz Ali, 52, a businessman and younger brother of B.A. Mohiuddin Bava, former Congress MLA for Mangaluru City North, is reported to be missing.

The police launched a search operation in the Phalguni in Mangaluru early on Sunday suspecting that he might have jumped into the river after his car was found in a damaged condition near Kuloor bridge on the National Highway 66.

Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal told reporters that Mr. Ali left his house at 3 a.m. He moved around the city in his high-end car and hit a vehicle. He parked the car by the side of the bridge at 5 a.m. and is missing since then. He is suspected to have jumped into the river. Teams of Karnataka State Disaster Response Force and Indian Coast Guards, along with police, are searching for Mr. Ali, he said. The Commissioner said police are yet to ascertain the reason for Mr. Ali's missing.

"We have come to know about some family reasons and it is all part of investigation," he said. Scene of crime officers and local officers have closely examined the abandoned car and collected evidence related to the incident, he said. Mr. Agrawal said before going missing, Mr. Ali posted a voice message in his family WhatsApp group that he will not return.

Mr. Ali, who was into export business, was among the three younger brothers of Mr. Bava.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

MOHANA RAJAN. S (69)
(Gudiwada Rowdy Rayudu)
(Keerikadan Jose)
03-10-2024

It is with great sadness that we announce the demise of loving Husband - Father

Usha Mohan *(Wife)*,
Jaishma & Kaaviya
(Daughters)

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
Kmf Complex, Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, Bangalore - 560 029
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/NHMPP-400KVA UPS/1943/2024-25 Date: 05-10-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
[Two Cover System] [Through KPP Portal Only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible manufacturers/ authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers authorised by OEM who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of Completion
1	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Erection and commissioning of 400 KVA UPS Systems and related works at NHMPP, Ramanagar	1 Job	2.00 Lakhs	4 Months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 07.10.2024 to 22.10.2024 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 22.10.2024 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 23.10.2024 at 4:30 pm.

For Karnataka Co-Opp. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE
Directorate of Horticulture, Lalbagh, Bengaluru - 560 004.

No.: DH/JDH(BT)/ADH(Org)/PKVY/15/2024-25 Date: 05.10.2024

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Empanellment of service providers registered in Karnataka State/having branch office in Karnataka for implementation of PKVY through HASIRU Portal

Department of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka invites Expression of Interest proposals from reputed and experienced organizations / NGOs / Firms / Agencies **Registered in Karnataka State / having branch office in Karnataka** interested to serve as support agencies for implementation of Paramparagata Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) to be implemented in Karnataka state during the period 2024-25 to 2026-27 The **EoI proposal document** includes proposal format, details of supporting documents, mode of submission of the proposal, mode of selection, eligibility criteria, scheme details, roles and responsibilities of supporting agencies, terms and conditions, etc., Interested Agencies shall download EoI document from Department website **https://hasiru.karnataka.gov.in** and register in HASIRU portal by submitting the required documents (company registration certificate, Logo, GST certificate) to Gmail: **pmu.heg@gmail.com** to get Login Credentials (User ID & Password) and upload the EoI proposal documents through Departmental website **https://hasiru.karnatakagov.in** by paying non refundable registration fee of Rs. 5,000/- to KSHDA A/c No. 64037414538, IFSC Code: SBIN0040277 from Date 07.10.2024 to 28.10.2024 within 5.00 PM. Pre submission of proposal meeting will be held on 15.10.2024 & 11.00 AM, Venue: Mini meeting hall, Department of Horticulture, Lalbagh, Bengaluru. **Address for communication** Joint Director of Horticulture (Biotechnology), Biocentre, Hulimavu, Bannerghatta road, Bengaluru-76, Mob: 9448999205 and Assistant Director of Horticulture, PKVY Mob: 9108591917 Gmail: **jaivikakendra.hulimavu@gmail.com**

Sd/-
Director of Horticulture
Lalbagh, Bengaluru - 04

DIPR/CP/AAA/2377/2024-25

Fostering the urban jungle of Bengaluru

Ant-mimicking spiders, the Indian laburnum, the Bengaluru burrowing frog, the Brahminy blind snake. These are some of the citizens of the city who have no space to stay

Preeti Zachariah

Renee M. Borges often hears the distinct high-pitched calls of slender lorises from the canopy above her while driving home from the Indian Institute of Science. "There is the Central Power Research Institute on one side of the road and the IISc campus on the other," says the evolutionary ecologist from IISc's Centre for Ecological Sciences. "I can hear a loris above the road, crossing (from one campus to the other) through the trees."

If the trees were not connected, it would be devastating to these animals, she says, at a recent lecture titled "Fostering the Urban Jungle" held at Science Gallery Bengaluru. In that scenario, these beautiful, insectivorous animals, among the oldest living primates in the world, would be unable to survive in the city. "I want to emphasise that the slender loris will only survive if there are connections between trees," she says about these shy, arboreal creatures, listed as 'Endangered' in the IUCN Red List.

Dangers of isolation

There are good reasons for Borges' concern for these animals. Slender lorises, as well as many other urban-dwelling animals, cannot survive if their populations – already small and limited to a few patches of trees in the city – become isolated because they will not be able to move from one place to another either to hunt prey or escape predators. She expands on the concept of landscape resistance, a measure of "how much a landscape resists movement of organisms from one patch to another" and its effect on small animals in cities. "They will find it very difficult, and their populations will be restricted based on the impervious, cemented landscapes that prevent them from moving from one area to another," she warns.

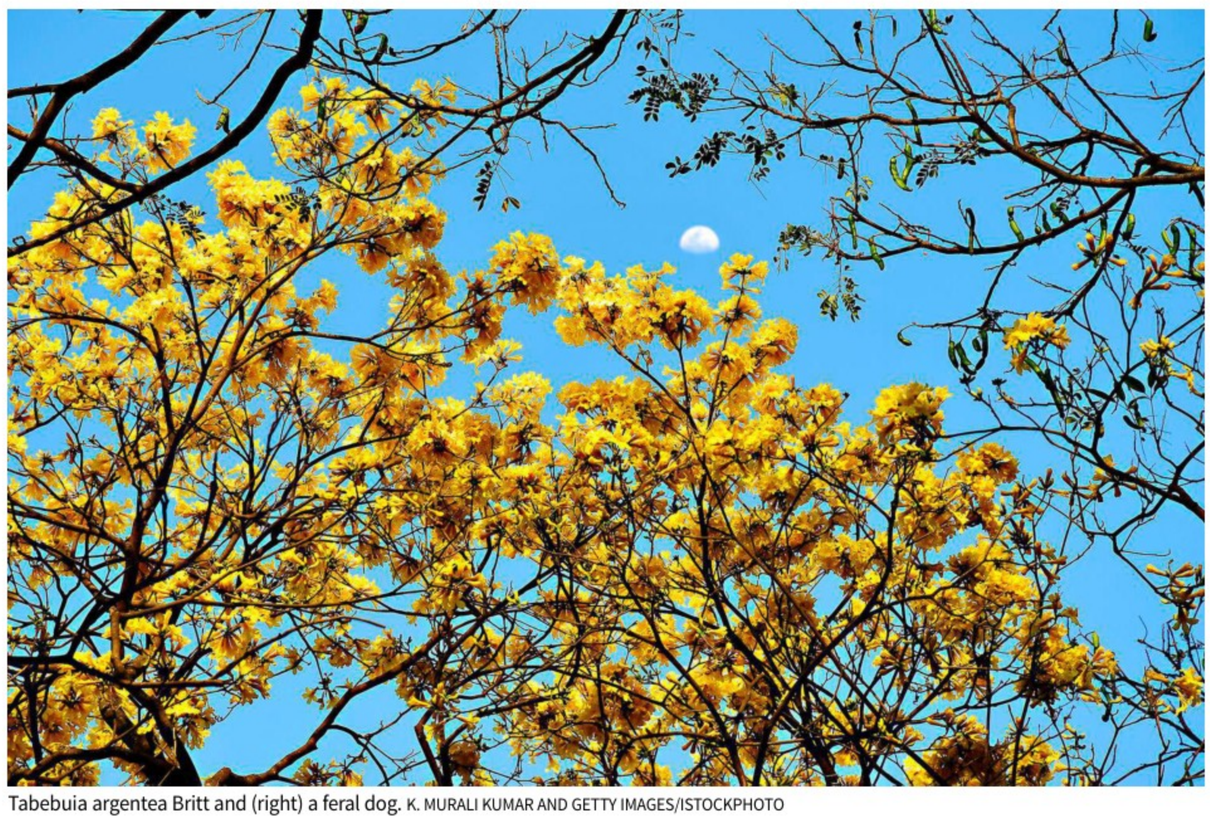
There is yet another consequence of fragmented landscapes for animals like lorises: loss of genetic diversity, which is crucial for their survival. "If you are not able to mix easily, then your genetics becomes very localised or very specific to a locality because you are not able to share genes with individuals that are farther away," says Borges. "These are very well-understood consequences of fragmentation that happens because of urbanisation."

Co-evolution

At the talk, Borges makes a broader point about urbanisation and its consequences on plant and animal life. She shares a map that offers a global perspective into the evolution of urban life and points to a scattering of organisms on the map that live in close proximity to humans, including pigeons, bedbugs, lice, fleas and rats. "There has been a sort of two-way interaction," she says. "Humans have also influenced these organisms, and these organisms, in turn, have influenced humans."

While the co-evolution of humans and these animals has occurred over several millennia, the dramatic increase in urbanisation in the past few decades is affecting the evolution of plants and animals significantly. Take, for instance, herring gulls: large, rather noisy shorebirds found in the northern hemisphere.

"If you track the mutations in a rural population of herring gulls compared to an urban population or in a steel town, you can see that the rates of mutation increase because of pollution in urban populations," she says, drawing from a recent study about genetic mutations, the raw material for evolutionary change, in these birds. She points out that this indicates "a clear kind of relationship that tells us how urbanisation is affecting the evolution of these animals. Because mutations are an index of evolution." Similar findings have been reported in mice, lizards and plants.



Tabebuia argentea Britt and (right) a feral dog. K. MURALI KUMAR AND GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Borges also talks about the interconnection between the urban landscape and ecological processes, offering examples from all over the world, including bumblebees in Berlin, water fleas in Belgium and red-rust bryozoans in Sydney to drive home this point. Aspects like body size, mobility, salt and heat tolerance, biomass and metabolism seem to be affected by urban phenomena, including climate change, urban heat islands, landscape fragmentation, pollution and contaminants. "Different species are affected differently by urbanisation," she reiterates.

Renee M. Borges.

Bengaluru calling

Borges displays two images of the Taj Mahal: a recent photograph and an older one when it was still surrounded by the verdant Timurid-style greenery supposed to represent the gardens of Paradise, the original vision for the Taj before Lord Curzon ordered its restoration in the early 1900s. "You wonder what must have been the biodiversity around this beautiful structure and, therefore, what we have lost," she says.

Closer home in Bengaluru, rampant urbanisation has drastically changed the landscape in the last few decades. "You get very, very, very small pockets of remotely viable areas where some amount of biodiversity could survive," she says.

These include the relatively greener cantonment areas, military areas, and old university campuses, which are very important areas that have been preserving biological diversity, she says. She also talks about the lakes in the city and the various valleys like Arkavathi and Vrishabhavathi, the areas around which were once teeming with amphibians. "Those of us who are older residents of Bangalore will remember the calls of the frogs around the lakes," she says. "But we don't hear them anymore."

A changing city

So what has happened to Bangalore in the last few decades, she asks, sharing a chart that traces the city's built-up area versus its green (parks, woodlands and gardens) and blue infrastructure (rivers, lakes and canals) between 1973 and 2023. "What this picture shows is quite obvious. The lakes have shrunk, the buildings and privatisation have taken over," she remarks ruefully before commenting on how even the way we build has changed.

Take, for instance, the glass buildings that already dot the city and continue mushrooming across it. "It's very disconcerting for any ecologist or anybody with common sense," she says, pointing out that it makes no sense to import a technology suitable for a Scandinavian country where people want to get in as much sun as possible into a tropical one.

Slender loris on the IISc campus in Bengaluru. ABDUS SHAKUR

"I believe that our architects and engineers have failed us because they have imported and imposed a culture on us that is not ecologically viable," she says.

The result of this? The proliferation of urban heat islands or urban centres that experience higher temperatures than the surrounding less built-up areas. Using a satellite image that maps how land surface temperature is impacted by vegetation, she states, "You can clearly see that the satellites are telling us that the coolest areas are around where green and blue infrastructure exists."

Light pollution

Yet another neglected consequence of urbanisation is light pollution, which Borges believes is hurting biodiversity of all kinds. Firefly populations, for example, are declining because there is too much light, while migratory birds who fly at night are often confused by artificial light because they mistake it for celestial cues that they use to find their way.

Moreover, light has always been a very important part of our evolution, affecting our circadian rhythms from time immemorial. "Sleep is important because of all the growth and repair and memory consolidation that happens when we sleep," she says. Today, however, thanks to multiple artificial light sources, sleep patterns of "all animals, whether it be cows or rodents or crows or fish," are gravely affected, she says.

Biodiversity and city

Urbanisation has also impacted Bengaluru's biodiversity, be it on the bees, including the quality and quantity of honey they make, or on sandalwood trees. She also highlights how rapid urbanisation has led to an increase in the number of feral dogs and invasive plants like lantana, which in turn have deleterious consequences on the local flora and fauna. "As an ecologist, I am concerned about what these dogs do to our migratory land-dwelling birds like the pitta," she says.

Borges shares photographs of some of the city's other residents: ant-mimicking spiders, the Indian laburnum, the Bengaluru burrowing frog, the Brahminy blind snake and a few garden snails. "These are the citizens of Bengaluru. So we need to celebrate them, protect them and provide for them."

50 kg of plastic waste removed from lake surroundings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The team that took part in the cleanup drive.

Students from the Department of Liberal Arts at Christ (Deemed to be University), Bannerghatta Road Campus, participated in a cleanup drive at Hulimavu Lake on October 5. Organised by the Liberati-Liberal Arts Association in collaboration with the Indian Ploggers Army, the event saw over 60 students volunteering to clean up the lake's polluted surroundings.

The volunteers, who arrived at 7.30 a.m., were briefed by the Indian Ploggers Army, a Bengaluru-based NGO promoting environmental conservation through "plogging" – collecting litter while jogging. Divided into three teams, the students collected around 50 kg of plastic waste, which was later handed over to BBMP officials for proper disposal.

Behavioural change

During the drive, the Indian Ploggers Army educated the students on sustainable living, with a key focus on reducing single-use plastics. "Bringing your own cutlery wherever you go can significantly reduce the use of disposable plastics," said Gayatri. The session also covered sustainable menstruation, encouraging the use of eco-friendly alternatives to conventional sanitary napkins, which contribute to landfill waste.

Faculty member Embassy Lawbei emphasized the department's commitment to sustainability, stating, "Our philosophy is 'sustainability' and we believe in behavioural change, one step at a time. This initiative will inspire students to adopt small changes and continue making more."

Ward marshal Manohar P. praised the students' efforts, noting that while the fight against plastic pollution is ongoing, community-driven initiatives like this demonstrate that progress is possible.

How to track satellites as an amateur

A public demonstration held in Bengaluru to show amateur space enthusiasts that tracking of satellites requires only basic materials, which one can find at home, and are very affordable

Ipsita Misra
BENGALURU

On Saturday, morning, the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium ground was crowded with antennae, a computer, and radio equipment, all placed to track satellite signals and to encourage space enthusiasts to pursue their interest by providing them with a demonstration about the simplicity of materials needed to intercept satellite signals. A large number of participants – from schoolchildren to students of engineering and computer science – gathered to learn more.

AMSAT India, a collective of amateur radio operators, held a two-day practical demonstration of how to track satellites as an amateur within an 800 km altitude in collaboration with Upagrah Amateur Radio Club, U.R. Rao Satellite Centre, and Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium to celebrate World Space Week, on the open ground of the planetarium.

Schoolchildren, as well as students pursuing bachelor's degrees in engineering and computer science, attended the demonstration on Oct. 5.

Director for Educational Outreach, AMSAT, Subramania, during the demonstration of how to track satellites. IPSITA MISRA

"The objective of this demonstration is to show amateur space enthusiasts that tracking satellites requires only basic materials, which one can find at home, and are very affordable," said Subramania, Director for Educational Outreach, AMSAT. "All you need is an antenna, for which you mainly need measuring tape, a software-defined radio, a computer, and tracking and decoding software, which are free on the internet. The cost comes up to about ₹6,000-7,000."

The team of radio operators demonstrated how to track satellites in real-time, received and decoded signals in front of attendees, conferred with radio operators in other parts of Bengaluru, and decoded weather images.

While the most basic setup allows one to track satellites, licensed operators can transmit signals and communicate through satellites locally, statewide, and internationally.

"What we learn in college is mostly theoretical, but here we can see a practical demonstration, which increases our hands-on knowledge," explained Shivakumar Swamy, a student from SJU Institute of Technology, while Subramania contacted another radio operator via transmission in Banaswadi.

Members from AMSAT, as well as specialists from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), came to showcase the simplicity of tracking satellites and decoding signals. While there are an innumerable number of satellites in space, the AMSAT team focused on showcasing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) satellites launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Russian satellite Meteor M24 to the public.

"Lawyers, actors, missionaries, people from all walks of life, become radio operators to pursue it as a hobby," said Subramania during the demonstration.

Athish Kashyapa, a student from K.S. Institute of Technology, said, "It is helpful for students from electronics branches to view this demonstration, as it is presented very well, and gives us ideas on how to present our projects," in his feedback about the demonstration.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 7, 2024

Assistance for Farming in Kolar District

Bangalore, Oct. 6: The Karnataka Government has proposed to extend assistance for raising agricultural crops in about 36,000 hectares in Kolar district during the current rabi and summer seasons under the Intensive Agricultural Area Programme.

It is proposed to raise hybrid maize in a little over 12.000 hectares, Mexican wheat in 1,000 hectares, and bajra in 300 hectares. During the summer season it is proposed to grow maize in 4,500 hectares and jowar in 3,550 acres under the high-yielding varieties programme. About 9,400 hectares would be covered under paddy and 6,650 hectares under ragi.

Promotion of Thulu Literature and Culture

Mangalore, Oct. 6: The services rendered by the Thulu Koota, Mangalore, for the promotion of Thulu literature and culture, were appreciated by Mr. Dharmastala Veerendra Heggude Dharmadhikari of Kshetra Dharmastala while presiding over the fourth anniversary of the Koota at the Town Hall here recently.

Mr. Heggade presented silk shawls to Messrs. Shankaranarayana Samuga, B. Rama Kirodian, and Mudara Bajpe for their contribution to Thulu literature and culture through Yakshagana, dramatic art and Bhootada Nalike. Mr. S.R. Hegde, President of Thulu Koota, welcomed Mr. K.C. Bhandary, Secretary, who presented the report, and Mr. L.V. Kudva, editor of "Navabharath" complimented the Thulu Koota.

A distinct touch to 'Cartes Blanches'

French choreographer Mourad Merzouki talks about the challenge and excitement of recreating the dance in India

A perfect blend Of energy, style and grace. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Charumathi Supraja

Cartes Blanches means 'complete freedom' or 'a blank card." While blankness gives reign to choice, factors like the card's size and texture, inevitably shape it. This play of freedom with restriction seemed to define *Cartes Blanches*, recreated with Indian dancers by French choreographer Mourad Merzouki, in collaboration with Prakriti Foundation and The French Institute in India.

Performed at Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts, Bengaluru, *Cartes Blanches* simultaneously relayed distance and intimacy. The proscenium stage set apart the impossibly nimble dancers from an audience while the highly skilled dancers played out intimate (and complex) movement conversations conducted against the backdrop of a grandly furnished living room. Sharply designed lights determined the audience's perception of the powerful storytelling taken on by dancers negotiating unique relationships with rhythm, time and space. |

It seemed like the invitation to experience freedom was also extended to the audience who could make their own meaning of the narratives panning out on stage. These narratives could have spoken of young cousins meeting after long, a reunion of classmates or even a family's post-dinner conversation. The interaction between diverse dance styles layered the performance – astounding in energy and told in an endearing voice.

Co-produced by the French Institute, India and Prakriti Foundation, Campagnie Kafig's *Cartes Blanches* was presented by six Indian dancers chosen last year through multi-city auditions, when internationally renowned choreographer Mourad Merzouki was touring the country with another work – *Pixel*.

First premiered in 2016, *Cartes Blanches*, in this Indian version, wove in local dance and martial art forms. These parts, surprisingly, did not jar, possibly because the audience was already prepared for the assortment of flavours brought by dancers, who, clearly, were not from one training mould.

Merzouki, recently in the news for exclusive choreographies created for the Olympic Games in Paris, spoke about the process of recreating *Cartes Blanches* in India. Having been a circus performer well before his dance journey began, Merzouki is known for bringing together acrobatics and dance. He sees movement as "a language to create." Believing that "a body in movement does not separate acrobatics and dance," he often chooses to interweave them in his work.

Mourad sees his work as an attempt to blend an array of energies and styles, irrespective of the dancers' origins. "I want to work on a form of alchemy, so that each creation is unique and singular," he says. He believes that recasting a production with "other bodies, other energies, gives a whole new approach to the piece and makes it more mature and powerful." He is excited about how the latest version of *Cartes Blanches* is informed by flavours brought in by Indian dancers and their diverse training backgrounds.

The new piece "complements the original hip-hop or contemporary dance" structure of *Cartes Blanches*, he says. A choreographer who thrives on "challenges and crossing disciplines," Merzouki is inspired by the questions that come up during the creative process. "It's never easy, but each time, the encounters I have with different artistes and techniques lead me to reinvent myself, so each show has its own story, its own dynamic," he says.

Merzouki finds the social dimension of hip hop dance crucial and lets it guide his creative process

He finds "the social dimension of hip hop dance" crucial and lets it guide his creative process. Armand Amar's musical score for *Cartes Blanches*, "draws on sounds and cultures from all over the world," he points out. "We both enjoy working with designers from other fields, and our collaboration has enabled us to question each other while also merging our worlds," says Mourad.

Dancers Deep Das, Shahan Kavarana, Snigdha Prabhakar, Sam Padelkar, Divieta Sahajwala and Chetan Kumar Yeragera brought *Cartes Blanches* alive with their honest explorations of freedom within the pre-existing framework of a dance production created in a very different cultural context. They all felt the two-week period of preparation was barely enough to scratch the surface of the piece, while appreciating the careful guidance of Mourad and his team members, Remi Autechaud and Sabri Colin. They expressed how they felt supported in the many challenges they had to take on, while traversing the personal growth pathways the piece opened for them.

EATING OUT

Priyamedha Dutta

Ready for a flight?

G-Force Cosmo, Aerial Ace, Inverted Jet, Low Altitude, if you think these words seem familiar to anything or everything that involves flying, you are probably right.

These are not just reminiscent of aviation jargon you heard at a museum – but names of actual cocktails that Bengaluru's latest aviation inspired taproom has to offer.

Just when you thought Bengaluru's dining scene could not be more innovative, Runway 27, at Yemalur takes it to a new height – offering its diners a unique experience with a stunning view of the HAL Airport

Runway, where you can watch planes fly over you while you sip on their cheekily named Top Gun Tea or the bold Tom Stunt.

This 1500-square-feet expansive venue offers an eclectic blend of aviation inspired interiors paired with a relaxed bar atmosphere.

Set across two floors, the venue offers both indoors and alfresco dining seating.

The wood-toned interior exudes warmth while the open balcony that wraps around the space offers a refreshing outdoor vibe.

The culinary and cocktail magic is curated by chef Sombir Choudhary and bar-in-chief Avinash Kapoli, the names behind the legendary SOKA and Jamming Goat.

We started with their aviation cocktails, G-Force Cosmo, a vodka-based cocktail with summer berries, hibiscus cascara, vegan foam and citrus, a perfect starter if you are looking for something on a sweeter note.

For a boozier punch we tried Russian Maffia, true to its name the cocktail blends three types of vodka, vanilla vodka, expresso vodka, orange vodka and pinnacle dew.

We then tried their Top Gun Tea, a refreshing concoction of tequila, salted lime, passion fruit and soda water.

Runway 27

Hits: Calcutta Style chicken chop
Misses: Runway Summer Salad
Wallet factor: *₹1500 including alcohol for two.*

The food menu features highlights including, 'Pre-Flight Snacks,' 'First Class Soups,' 'Take-Off Starters,' and 'Final Destination Desserts.'

We tried our hands on some of their bar snacks, starting with char grilled chicken wings.

The smoky, slightly crisp exterior giving way to a tender meat inside, complimented well with the cocktails, a good start to the meal.

Next a surprising take on a bar snack and something I have never tried before, at least at a bar in Bengaluru was the Calcutta style chicken chop.

A smooth landing Of flavours on your plate. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A *chop* which translates to croquettes are these spicy chicken keema balls coated in bread crumps and then deep fried and served with *kasundi* sauce (mustard mayo).

Kudos to the chef the chicken chops were cooked to perfection, the slightly flaky exterior and a moist chicken filling inside, paired perfectly with piquant *kasundi*, a well-balanced start that set the tone for the rest of the evening.

A unique experience with a stunning view of the HAL Airport runway, where you can watch planes fly while you sip on their cheekily named cocktails

If you are vegetarian and confused on what to order, the cream cheese chilli *bhajji* can be a good option.

A modern take on traditional chilli *bhajji*, the crispy *bhajji* goes well with the salty cream cheese filling inside.

From the mains we opted for Aslam butter chicken and butter naan, a combination approved by millions worldwide now, a dish that transcends borders, the chicken was juicy, and the sauce had just the right amount of sweetness.

Even after you think you had copious amount of food, you can never really satiate your taste buds until you have dessert.

For the dessert we went with what was suggested to us, a classic tiramisu and apple pie with toffee sauce and vanilla ice cream, as nice as the portion size looked, both tasted equally good and can be opted for your final destination.

INBRIEF

A fasting menu

ONGOING
Khandani Rajdhani, a vegetarian dining destination, presents a fasting menu this Navratri. The specially curated Upwas Thali, offers satvik cuisine with dishes like sabudana vada, farali pattice, samo rice with tomato dal and kele ki sabji. For desserts there is fruit shrikhand and sabudana kheer.
The food is available for lunch and dinner and is priced at ₹699 plus taxes.
Available across all Khandani Rajdhani outlets in Bengaluru.

Traditional flavours

ONGOING
This Navratri menu blends traditional flavours with SOCIAL's signature twist. The limited edition of the Navratri Thalis will be available till October 11. You can look forward to dishes like aloo jeera, paneer in a tomato gravy, crunchy makhana, vrat special samak rice, falahari poori and sabudana kheer.
Also available will be sabudana vada and sabudana papad.
The food is priced at ₹450 plus taxes and is available across all SOCIAL outlets.

Anvar fails to get support from DMK in Tamil Nadu

MLA launches political movement and names it Democratic Movement of Kerala after Stalin refused audience with him; he says his outfit follows the Dravidian movement's principles

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/CHENNAI

P.V. Anvar, Independent MLA who broke ranks with the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala and launched a new political movement at a well-attended public rally at Manjeri in Malappuram on Sunday, appeared hard-pressed to find a safe political anchorage despite his overtures to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhakam (DMK), the ruling party of Tamil Nadu.

Shunned by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and feeling unwelcome in the Opposition Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF), Mr. Anvar had pivoted to the DMK, declaring Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin the ideological lodestar of his nascent political movement, intriguingly named the "Democratic Movement of Kerala".

DMK sources told *The Hindu* in Chennai that Mr. Anvar had sought an appointment with Mr. Stalin. "But the Chief Minister politely refused to meet him. The DMK has a good rapport with the CPI(M) and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. A meeting with Mr. Anvar will not augur well for the DMK's alliance with the Left parties in Tamil Nadu," a source said.

Mr. Anvar's outfit had arguably sought to capitalise on the LDF's deep-rooted relationship with the DMK in the latter's stronghold in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris district, which is contiguous with Malappuram in Kerala. Notably, LDF leaders from Malappuram, including Mr. Anvar, had supported DMK leader A. Raja's winning campaign in the Nilgiris Lok Sabha constituency.

New beginning: P.V. Anvar, MLA, addressing a public meeting at Manjeri in Malappuram district on Sunday before officially announcing the name of his new social organisation. SAKEER HUSSAIN

The LDF in Malappuram also shares political ties with the DMK in the Gudalur Assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu.

Supporters from T.N.

The people-to-people contact manifested in scores of vehicles sporting DMK flags and Tamil Nadu registration numbers ferrying supporters to Mr. Anvar's rally from the Nilgiris.

In the run-up to the rally, Mr. Anvar appeared to be at pains to stress that his movement, despite the similarity in the initialism, was not a political outfit like the DMK. "Ours is a broad-based peoples' movement largely centred on the Dravidian movement's secular principles," he said.

Mr. Anvar conceded that he faced certain legal hurdles in forming a political party. For one, he remained a member of the CPI(M) Parliamentary Party in the Kerala Assembly. The CPI(M) is yet to expel Mr. Anvar from its fold in the Assembly formally, but has made a political statement by assigning him a seat on the Opposition's side.

Mr. Anvar has positioned his fledgling outfit as a popular counterweight to the State's "deep state and established political class". Mr. Anvar's gambit seemed focused on mustering the discontented members of mainstream parties to form an electoral entity open to negotiations with the traditional fronts in future elections. Both the ruling and Opposition fronts in Kerala perceive Mr. Anvar's attempt as bid to emerge as a potential game changer in the impending byelections in the Chelakkara and Palakkad Assembly constituencies and, arguably by a long shot, the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat. As a former leader of the now-disbanded Democratic Indira Congress (Karunakaran), a Congress breakaway faction led by former Chief Minister K. Karunakaran in 2006, Mr. Anvar is reckoned as a past master at playing dissident politics.

Excavations begin at megalithic burial site in Chamarajanagar

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A team of history and archaeology scholars and students from the University of Mysore have embarked on an excavation of megalithic burial sites in Chamarajanagar district.

The excavations are being conducted at Doddalathur village, located in a small valley formed by the Male Mahadeshwara Hill ranges in Hanur taluk of Chamarajanagar district, in association with the Mythic Society, Bengaluru.

V. Shobha, chairperson of Department of Studies in Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Mysore, who is involved with the project, said that to the west of the village was a small hillock and in the adjacent fields were hundreds of burials of the megalithic period which corresponded to the Iron Age.

The burials consisted of circles made of large boulders and hence the name "megalithic".

A megalithic burial site near Hanur in Chamarajanagar district.

Iron Age

Since iron technology came into use during this period, it was also known as Iron Age, and in south India, this period had been broadly placed in the time bracket of 1200 BCE to 300 CE, said Dr. Shobha.

She pointed out that Doddalathur megalithic burial site was discovered by C. Krishnamurti of the Archaeological Survey of India, in 1961.

The site once had more than 1,000 burials, according to the local villages but many had vanished in recent years owing to expansion of agriculture and cultivation activities, settlement and land development projects, Dr. Shobha added.

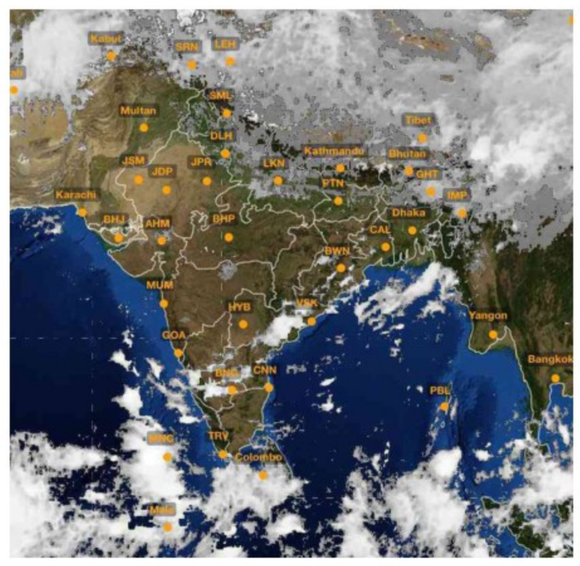
But the site had potential for excavation as a majority of the burials are still intact despite disturbances, she said.

C.B. Patil, retired Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, is the co-director of the excavation, and the project hopes to throw more light on the megalithic-iron age culture in the hilly regions of southern Karnataka in addition to gathering scientific dates for this period.

Another purpose is to provide field training to the students of archaeology. The excavations, which commenced on October 3, 2024, will continue for about two months. Incidentally, in 2021 and 2022, the department excavated the habitation-cum-megalithic burial site of Budipadaga which is about 20 km southwest of Doddalathur.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very Heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal, Kerala & Mahe.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	28.0	31.8	24.8	Kozhikode	0.1	34.5	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	34.2	25.5	Kurnool	28.0	34.5	23.7
Aizawl	5.0	31.2	21.5	Lucknow	—	33.9	24.4
Allahabad	9.0	36.4	24.7	Madurai	0.1	31.7	25.3
Bengaluru	25.0	29.4	20.4	Mangaluru	—	30.5	24.0
Bhopal	—	33.6	21.6	Mumbai	—	32.7	26.0
Bhubaneswar	—	33.5	26.9	Mysuru	12	29.0	—
Chandigarh	—	35.7	23.5	New Delhi	—	35.0	21.2
Chennai	3.0	34.3	26.8	Patna	—	32.0	26.3
Coimbatore	0.6	32.7	23.6	Port Blair	7.0	30.5	24.3
Dehradun	—	33.0	21.2	Puducherry	1.0	33.9	25.0
Gangtok	1.3	22.3	16.7	Pune	—	32.7	21.2
Goa	900.0	33.2	25.4	Raipur	—	35.1	24.7
Guwahati	33.0	29.0	24.0	Ranchi	—	30.4	22.0
Hubballi	—	31.0	22.0	Shillong	50.3	21.7	15.5
Hyderabad	—	30.6	23.0	Shimla	—	26.0	15.0
Imphal	—	28.9	18.9	Srinagar	2.0	24.5	13.4
Jaipur	—	35.6	25.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.6	24.9
Kochi	—	30.8	25.8	Tiruchi	11.0	32.1	24.0
Kohima	—	22.6	16.4	Vijayawada	—	33.4	26.6
Kolkata	16.0	31.0	24.6	Visakhapatnam	—	34.6	28.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	2	63	.37	162	117	
Bengaluru	—	.29	.97	47	48	
Chennai	6	.22	162	—	61	
Delhi	.41	.66	.85	165	393	
Hyderabad	.11	.32	.59	144	—	
Kolkata	5	.86	.33	64	76	
Lucknow	6	.16	.28	42	87	
Mumbai	4	.86	.52	11	45	
Pune	6	.70	.84	52	62	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.81	.34	175	198	

Yesterday

High levels of particulate matter pollution recorded in many cities across the country. Going by Central Pollution Control Board data, Imphal the worst with PM2.5 pollution levels touching a dangerous 424. Muzaffarnagar was second with PM10 readings of 230.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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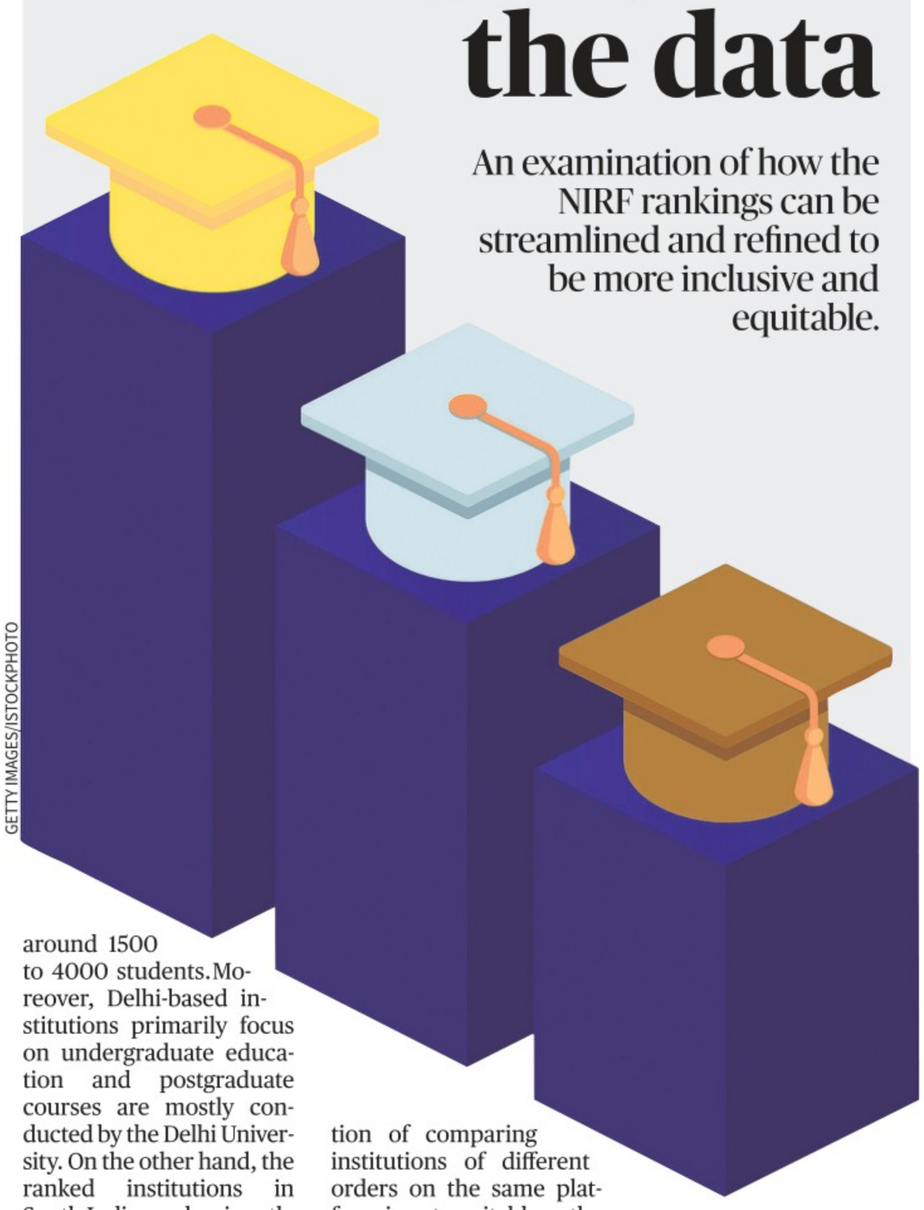
Going beyond the data

An examination of how the NIRF rankings can be streamlined and refined to be more inclusive and equitable.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Paul Wilson

Recently the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) published its results under various categories including Overall, Universities, State Public Universities, Open Universities, Skill Universities, Colleges, Research Institutions, Innovation Institutions, Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Architecture and Planning, Law, Medical, Dental, Agriculture and Allied Sectors. On a positive note, the ranking framework has enabled the colleges to benchmark themselves using the framework and build capacity to meet the demand.

The idea of including state public universities as a separate category is an inclusive approach that brought Anna University and Bharathiar University from Tamil Nadu into the limelight by placing them in first and eighth positions respectively. This was implemented based on central universities being able to access relatively higher funding resources in contrast to state public universities. However, still there is scope for streamlining and refining the framework to be more inclusive and equitable.

First, it has been consistently inferred that only Delhi-based institutions occupy the top five to six positions followed by colleges from other states. If one looks carefully into the numerical strength of these institutions, many host around 1500 to 4000 students. Moreover, Delhi-based institutions primarily focus on undergraduate education and postgraduate courses are mostly conducted by the Delhi University. On the other hand, the ranked institutions in South India predominantly have research as a culture owing to their postgraduate education. The question of comparing institutions of different orders on the same platform is not equitable as the efforts in curating and managing the data would not be of the same order.

Justice and fairness

Second, though "outreach and inclusivity" are part of the parameters, the equity performance of academic institutions is not reckoned as part of the NIRF metrics to measure the practice of "justice" and "fairness" through distributive equity that solicits a different treatment to the disadvantaged institutions in order to practice SDG 4. Therefore, colleges that perform excellently well with the available socio-economic status (SES) and demographic constrictions are not able to scale up under the ranking framework. Institutions ranked due to their exclusive cognitive excellence and meritocratic philosophy for admissions are valued through the existing framework more than inclusive institutions that admit students hailing from varied learning styles. Institutions with socio-economic advantage, demographic, historical legacy, exclusive identity, familial networks, social support system, personal endowments, material wealth, and a host of other intangibles that work in tandem to boost their prospects have to be differentiated from that of disadvantaged while evaluating performance under various rubrics.

Third, assessment of 'teaching and learning' processes give importance to the infrastructure as per the framework than to the competency of the human resources, thus requiring a controlled perception building by the institution. However this has led to marketing manipulations by the institutions. Thus, if one goes only by the NIRF ranking, students ending up in a college with a low quality of education but better infrastructure with best data capture or simulation system.

Institution's USP

Fourth, each institution is known for intangible non-cognitive traits as a unique selling proposition that would add value to its culture. Academic success, personality and leadership development are created through 'social learning' integrated as part of the 'campus life' through non-credited activities. Though prescribing metrics for this is beyond this article's scope, it can be perceived that a longitudinal qualitative assessment to capture the institution's USP through qualitative assessment would beget a comprehensive perception. A few representative performance indicators of social learning could be civic responsibility, political agility, networking ability and social astuteness.

Finally, it obvious that NIRF ranking is all about the institution's agility to curate data proactively through proper documentation for assessment. The question as to whether the data and the academic reality are conformable is a question that is to be debated, as NIRF does not involve physical verification.

(Views expressed are personal)

The writer is the Principal and Secretary, Madras Christian College, Chennai

SCHOLARSHIPS

Unimoni Student Star Scholarship 2024
An initiative by Unimoni to help Indian students pursue higher education abroad.
Eligibility: Open to Indian citizens currently pursuing studies abroad who have a valid offer letter from the university and have scored minimum 60% in their Class 12, diploma, or graduation from a CBSE, ICSE, UGC-recognised, state or central government institution.
Rewards: Up to ₹500,000 and other prizes
Deadline: March 31, 2025
Application: Online
www.b4s.in/edge/USSH1

National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students (NFST)
An opportunity offered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India
Eligibility: Open to Indian Scheduled Tribe (ST) students who are enrolled in full-time, regular M.Phil or Ph.D. programmes at Ministry- approved institutions with a minimum of 55% marks at PG level. Annual family income must be less than ₹6,00,000.
Rewards: Up to ₹35,000 along with an annual contingency grant up to ₹25,000
Deadline: October 31
Application: Online
www.b4s.in/edge/NFTS2

AICTE-Saksham Scholarship Scheme
An initiative from the Ministry of Education implemented by the AICTE.
Eligibility: Open to Indian nationals from a specially-abled category, with a benchmark disability of not less than 40% and are in the first or second year (through lateral entry) of a degree/ diploma programme in an AICTE-approved institution. Annual family income should be less than ₹8 lakhs.
Rewards: ₹50,000/annum
Application: Online
Deadline: October 31
www.b4s.in/edge/ASDA1

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

OFF THE EDGE

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A defeat foretold

Maoists must abandon armed struggle and enter the democratic process

In yet another blow to the Maoists, 31 of their cadre, including senior members, were killed in a firefight with security forces on Friday in Abujmadh, the unsurveyed and forested stretch in south Chhattisgarh that is considered the last bastion of the insurgents. Scores of left-wing extremist cadres have been killed in "encounters" in Chhattisgarh and other States in recent months, as coordinated actions by various paramilitary forces and the police have intensified following significant attacks by the Maoists in recent years. The security forces are cognisant of the fact that while the Maoists have likely lost much of their clout and presence across jungles in central and eastern India, their remaining firepower poses a threat in places where they remain active. The intensified campaigns, supported fully by the Union Home Ministry, have dealt blow after blow to the insurgents, leading to numerous surrenders. It should also be noted that the setbacks to the Maoists would not have been possible if the people in tribal areas, where the insurgents have mounted a guerrilla struggle, had adhered to the Maoist cause. After years of putting tribal people in India's remotest areas in harm's way, the Maoists are now facing fatigue from them, as well as alienation.

There are several problems with Maoist theory and political practice that suggest that the weakening of the insurgency was always on the cards. Similar insurgencies in Peru, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Colombia also failed. For the Indian Maoists, an over-dependence on militarism to pursue political aims and the subordination of political-ideological work, resulting in a spiral of violence, have turned away potential supporters, mostly poor tribal people. The adherence to an anachronistic ideology of Maoism in a diverse country where the terrain and political system bear little resemblance to 1920s China combined with an inability to recognise the resilience of electoral democratic institutions and the nature of the Indian state are other factors. These issues have led the Maoists to neglect the opportunities available within Indian democracy, despite its flaws. In an unsigned pamphlet released in August to mark 20 years of the movement since the formation of the CPI (Maoist), following the merger of the two strongest remnants of the Naxalite movement, the Maoists lamented their weakening and setbacks but doubled down on their ideological intent. This shows their unwillingness to learn from their own experiences. For the sake of the tribal people, whose interests they claim to represent, the Maoists must abandon arms and enter the democratic process.

A learning curve

The outcomes of the PM Internship Scheme's pilot project need monitoring

On October 3, without much fanfare, the Centre launched an online portal that will serve as the platform for implementing one of the major announcements in the Budget for India's unemployed, and to a significant extent, unemployable youth. The portal, which operationalises the PM Internship Scheme – part of a five-scheme package designed to spur job creation and impart skills to 4.1 crore youth over five years – will match companies willing to offer year-long on-the-job training stints with young people striving to find a job. In principle, the mainly Centre-funded scheme makes sense for a country with a large, young workforce which is also grappling with distressing levels of youth unemployment. Apart from bridging the gap between the education provided to students and the real-world practical skills desired by employers, well-known firms could offer some form of certification at the end of the internship, providing comfort to prospective employers reviewing candidates for jobs. This could address a key question that employers often grapple with: "They can get the job, but can they get the job done?"

Under a pilot project, the first batch of 1.25 lakh interns will begin stints with voluntarily participating companies on December 2. While the government has consulted industry bodies before and after announcing the scheme, it is rightly cautious before scaling it up to meet the target of creating one crore internships by March 2029. The lessons learned from the pilot project will inform the final scheme design. Some insights will be apparent in the initial process of matching applicants to companies, but the full scope of outcomes can only be assessed after December 2025, when the interns re-enter the job market. Along the way, dropout rates and grievances will need to be monitored closely. A few features pose challenges, such as the plan to place interns within or near their district, and if that is not feasible, within their State. It is unclear how this will play out in less industrialised and less services-oriented States such as Bihar, which are likely to attract higher numbers of applicants. Just five States account for over half of India's manufacturing output, and youth unemployment is higher in States with lower business presence. Apart from shop floor skills, the scheme also needs to incorporate digital and soft skills that are vital for the modern workplace. The pilot project's trajectory requires a diligent and candid evaluation without a self-congratulatory approach, ensuring that intended outcomes are eventually met.

A three-tier war in West Asia with no endgame

Stanly Johny

In an essay in *Foreign Affairs* magazine in October 2023, U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan wrote, "...Although the Middle East remains beset with perennial challenges, the region is quieter than it has been for decades... The Israeli-Palestinian situation is tense, particularly in the West Bank, but in the face of serious frictions, we have de-escalated crises in Gaza." A few days after the piece was sent to press, on October 7, Hamas launched its deadliest attack in Israel, killing at least 1,200 people and taking some 250 people hostage, triggering the latest spell of war in the Israel-Palestine conflict. A year later, West Asia (or the Middle East, as Mr. Sullivan calls it) is deadlier today than it has been in decades.

Mr. Sullivan's October 2023 prognosis was not entirely unfounded if the region is seen from an American perspective. The Abraham Accords, signed in 2020 by Israel, the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco, announced a new age of Arab-Israel partnership. Saudi Arabia was in an advanced stage of normalising ties with Israel, as Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman himself put it. At the G20 Summit in Delhi in September 2023, U.S. President Joe Biden announced an ambitious economic corridor that sought to connect India's western coast to Europe through the Persian Gulf, Jordan, and Israel. But what Mr. Sullivan, the Arabs, and the Israelis overlooked was the Palestine question.

Two narratives

Israel believed that it had established a new status quo – occupation without consequences. The Arabs believed that the Palestine issue had lost its geopolitical currency and that they could go ahead with formalising their decades-long back-room relationship with Israel. The U.S. wanted to bring the Sunni Arabs and the Israelis, two pillars of its West Asia strategy, closer in its bid to reshape West Asia and isolate Iran. But by carrying out a murderous attack in Israel, Hamas not only torpedoed this status quo, but also triggered a chain of events that led to a wider regional conflict, reinforcing the old argument that there will not be peace and stability in West Asia unless the Palestine question is addressed.

> This is a conflict loop where no side is deterring its rival. With no way to break out of the loop, Israel chose to climb up the escalation ladder

REUTERS

But Israel has a different narrative. It has always sought to delink Palestinian militarism from its occupation of the Palestinian territories. Before October 7, Israel had been treating Palestinian violence as a security nuisance. But after the Hamas attack, the first large-scale one in Israel proper since 1948, the narrative shifted. Now, Israel is fighting an "existential war" against terror. Israel marched to Gaza with fire and fury. Over the past 12 months, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) have killed more than 41,000 Palestinians (more than 110 every day) and injured nearly 1,00,000 Palestinians. Nearly the whole population of Gaza (2.3 million) has been displaced.

Octopus doctrine

As the onslaught on Gaza began, Hezbollah, the Iran-backed Lebanese militia group, opened a "support front" in Israel's north. Israel expanded the war, defying pressure from the U.S., by doubling down on its assault on Hezbollah and taking the war to Iran by attacking its embassy complex in Damascus. In retaliation, Iran launched direct attacks against Israel. Now, Israel is fighting a three-tier regional war in West Asia.

Israel has different objectives at each tier, which collectively make for its strategy to alter the balance of power in West Asia to further its advantage. At the bottom tier, Israel went to Gaza with two declared objectives – to destroy Hamas and secure the release of hostages. In the middle, it wants to push Hezbollah from the border region of Lebanon and stop the Shia militia from launching rockets into Israel so that the displaced residents of the Upper Galilee region can return to their homes. At the top, it wants to weaken Iran, its main regional rival. Israel sees the conflict, as the former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett put it, as a war against a rival octopus. Iran is the head of the octopus and the militias (Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis, Hashad al-Shabi, etc.) are the tentacles. In the three-tier war, Israel wants to destroy or degrade the tentacles and weaken the octopus and thereby reshape West Asia. Is this an achievable goal?

After 12 months of fighting in Gaza, which has been under an Israeli blockade since 2007 and has been besieged by Israel since October 7, 2023, Israel is yet to meet its objectives in the 365 sq. km enclave, sandwiched between the Mediterranean Sea and Israel proper. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wants to obliterate Hamas, but now even the IDF says this is not an achievable objective. More than 100 hostages, many of them believed to be dead, are still in Hamas's captivity. Hezbollah says it will not stop firing rockets into Israel unless Israel ceases fire in Gaza. Israel cannot do this unless it meets its goals in Gaza.

Mr. Netanyahu chose to expand the war to Lebanon not because he is achieveing his objectives, but because he is far from doing so. Granted that Israel's back-to-back attacks on Hezbollah, including its killing of Hassan Nasrallah, perhaps the second most influential figure in Iran's axis after Ayatollah Khamenei, was a huge setback for both Hezbollah and Iran. When Hezbollah was in shock after the killing of its leader, Israel launched a ground invasion of Lebanon. Here, Israel faces two questions. First, will the decapitation of Hezbollah's leadership help Israel finish the war in Gaza? Second, will the decapitation of Hezbollah's leadership help Israel defeat Hezbollah in Lebanon? The answer to the first question is an outright no. The second question will be answered in the coming weeks, months, or years.

History suggests decapitation hardly works in destroying or deterring militias. Nasrallah took over Hezbollah after Israel killed the group's co-founder, Abbas al-Musawi. That did not stop Hezbollah from becoming what it is today: the most powerful non-state militia in the region. Israel killed two of Hamas's founding leaders in 2004. But that did not stop Hamas from driving the Israelis out of the enclave in 2005, capturing the territory in 2007, and carrying out the cross-border attack on October 7 last year. If Israel has not destroyed Hamas in the besieged Gaza in 12 months, how is it going to stop Hezbollah from firing rockets from Lebanon? After Nasrallah was killed, Hezbollah has launched hundreds of rockets into Israel.

The Iran question

This takes us to the third problem: Iran. The IDF has great firepower. Israel has proved in the past that it can carry out pinpointed attacks inside Iran, which shows the deep penetration of its intelligence in the Islamic Republic. Israel is set to carry out a decisive attack in Iran, in retaliation for the October 1 ballistic missile attacks by the Iranians. But will that deter Iran from launching another attack or supporting the axis? If it doesn't, what Israel, Iran, and the region as a whole will get is a shooting match between the two most powerful actors of West Asia. If Iran's already porous deterrence is weakened further in the shooting match, there is a high possibility that Iran will change its nuclear doctrine. Israel does not have a clear endgame vis-à-vis Iran, unless there is a regime change in Tehran.

This is a conflict loop where no side is deterring its rival. With no way to break out of the loop, Israel chose to climb up the escalation ladder. To dial down the heat in the region, there has to first be a ceasefire in Gaza. For long-term stability, the Palestine question needs to be addressed. Israel is ready for neither now; it is seeking to reshape West Asia in its favour instead. The last time a country tried to do so was the U.S. And the world's most powerful nation failed.

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Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and a travesty of justice

Hamid Dabholkar

State working committee member with MANS, an anti-superstition movement in Maharashtra

Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, the leader of the sect Dera Sacha Sauda, who is a convicted rapist and murderer, was released on parole days before the Haryana Assembly elections. He was released on parole in the run-up to the Punjab Assembly elections in 2022 and the Rajasthan Assembly elections in 2023 as well. Singh has come out on parole 15 times. Several of these occasions have coincided with some election. In all, Singh has spent more than 250 days of his sentence outside jail.

Convicted for rape and murder

The ostensible reason for his release is that, as a leader of a sect, he commands pockets of support and influence beyond Haryana and Punjab, in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, in an estimated 30 Assembly constituencies. His political clout aside, the fact that he has been convicted for raping two female disciples and also for murder by a special Central Bureau of Investigation court needs to be reiterated.

It is a travesty that such special treatment is made available to convicts such as him, especially since journalist Ramchander Chhatrapati had put his life in danger by exposing Singh and his crimes. Chhatrapati's newspaper, *Poora Sach* (The Whole Truth), had carried an anonymous letter by a Dera follower, who had accused Singh of rape. In 2002, Chhattrapati was shot dead at his residence. It was only in 2019 that Singh was convicted for his role in the murder. This means that it took nearly 17 years for Chhatrapati's son, Anshul Chhatrapati, to battle several odds to obtain justice. That the bureaucracy-political class nexus has gone out of its way to facilitate a murder and rape convict after all these years of struggle is a poor reflection of our society and raises disturbing questions.

> That the bureaucracy-political class nexus has gone out of its way to facilitate a murder and rape convict is a poor reflection of our society

The role of political parties and the ECI

The first question relates to the role of political parties. The incumbent Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regime in Haryana has been unapologetic and brazen about the decision to grant parole. It seems to suggest that due procedure has been followed for the parole to be granted and that is all that matters. While the Congress in the Opposition objected to the grant of parole, the sad reality is that the previous Congress leadership's views on the matter were no different from the views of the current regime. These parties must take their cue from former Prime Ministers, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh, who showed courage in allowing the rule of law to take its course on the matter of conviction. Parties should not stoop so low as to seek political support through someone who has been convicted of heinous crimes such as murder and rape.

The role of the Election Commission of India (ECI) also comes under scrutiny. Mr. Anshul Chhatrapati had sought the intervention of the ECI, urging it to direct the Haryana government to cancel the parole application. He had insisted that the granting of parole ahead of the Assembly elections would be a violation of democratic values. It is hard to believe that the ECI has not taken note of the curious pattern of paroles given to Singh before specific elections.

The courts had played an important role in bringing justice in cases related to Singh – from taking suo moto cognisance of the letters by anonymous victims to ensuring that the cases were properly heard and punishment meted out. The hope is that the judiciary will again take a proactive role in preventing this travesty of justice being played out in the form of paroles being handed out liberally to Singh.

My father, Narendra Dabholkar, a rationalist who lost his life in fighting against forces promoting superstition, used to emphasise that the war against superstition, irrational practices, and crimes had to be waged not over decades but over centuries. As Singh's saga – the crimes committed by him and the punishment meted out to him – completes nearly a quarter of a century, we need to show solidarity and wish more power to those in the fight such as Mr. Anshul Chhatrapati.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A mature decision

India's decision to participate in the SCO summit in Pakistan is laudable ("Pak. visit is for SCO meet, not to discuss bilateral ties: Jaishankar", October 6). This is a fine example of how a country should do what serves its own interests as well as the interests of the region, while keeping personal rivalries aside. India is showing its true commitment to multilateralism.

Kirti Wadhawan
Kanpur

A sad state of affairs

It is distressing that the Supreme Court has to intervene on issues that belong to the domain of the executive ("Caste in jail," Oct. 5). There have also been other instances where the judiciary has pulled up the executive for its failure to abide by the Constitution. This is a sad commentary on our governments.

Ravi Mathur
Noida

Bizarre and dangerous

The legislators have set a terrible precedent ("Tribal MLAs in Maharashtra jumped off building in protest", Oct. 5). Legislators are expected to discuss issues in the legislature and come up with solutions. If they are not heard, they must persevere. What kind of message are they sending to the public by adopting such a dangerous form of protest? Taking a cue from them, citizens too may resort to extreme forms of protest. Lawmakers need to learn to behave properly in public if they want our respect.

Kosaraju Chandramouli
Hyderabad

Tensions in West Asia

If Israel targets Iran's nuclear sites and oil refineries, it could lead to a disruption of the global oil markets ("Israel expands its bombardment in Lebanon as tens of the thousands flee", Oct. 6). As India is a major importer of oil from West Asia, increased costs could have a substantial impact on our economy. Though U.S. President Joe Biden has warned Israel against attacking Iran's nuclear facilities, Israel has shown no intention of holding back. Many oil-rich countries are subservient to the American regime, which could further complicate the geopolitical landscape. Israel's pursuits have yielded no tangible benefit for either the regime or the peace process in West Asia.

Rajesh Hiremath
Bengaluru

When the French President called for an arms embargo, the Israeli Prime Minister slammed him. The speed at which Israel is eliminating Hamas and Hezbollah leaders indicates that it is not interested in truce. It has placed a ban on the UN Secretary-General from visiting the country. It has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians. Where is the collective conscience of Israelis? For less grave acts, nations have deposed political leaders. Is it not time for the world to call on the people of Israel for a regime change?

Hemachandra Basappa
Bengaluru

End of an era

Vehicles on the road have risen manifold ("End of the line for Kolkata's trams", Oct. 6). Separate tram tracks are occupying precious space on our streets. We may be sentimentally attached to trams, but they are no longer the desired mode of transport anywhere.

V. Lakshmanan
Tirupur

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

100 days completed, but the work has just begun

Jayant Chaudhary

Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Government of India. Views are personal

With great responsibility comes an obligation to deliver what is best for our youth and to ensure their futures are bright, productive, and successful. In just 100 days, our government is well on its way to fulfilling its responsibility of making India a global skilling hub and setting an example of excellence at scale through our comprehensive skilling roadmap. I am fortunate to have the additional responsibility of being a Minister of State for Education, and the synergies between education and skilling for livelihoods are significant. There have been many highlights over the last 100 days, but from our nation's perspective, the work of being a skilling superpower has just begun.

In many ways, the Union Budget announcement, which gave tremendous support and responsibility to our Ministry, with the Prime Minister's clarion call for how skilling and India are integrated and synonymous with India's growth story during his 15th August address, have been encouraging and humbling. I am tasked not just with ensuring our children receive the best education and life skills that our government can offer, but also ensure that they are prepared for successful careers through a comprehensive skilling platform that we are putting in place.

Education and skill development have always been the twin pillars of any nation's progress. Together, they bridge the gap between the dreams of youth and the reality of a prosperous, self-reliant India. Since assuming charge, the learning curve has been steep. However, one thing became clear early on: government reports, numbers, and policies alone cannot capture the full picture. We need to understand lived experiences and learn from them to understand the impact and opportunity within the National Education Policy 2020 and other Central Schemes. To do so, it was essential to step beyond the confines of the written word and spend extensive time with the key stakeholders and beneficiaries. I have enjoyed and learned from my engagement with students, teachers, and industry leaders alike.

A glimpse of this impact was witnessed in schools like the PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Gomtinagar, Lucknow, where students were excelling not only academically but also in extracurricular activities. For example, Ashish Pandey, an extraordinary artist who aspires to be a 3D artist. His portrait of my grandfather, former Prime Minister Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh*ji*, felt lifelike as if he were present in the room. Similarly, my visit to JNV Palghar was highly personalised, as I was accompanied by the MP, who is an alumnus of the institution. One student, Akshita, brilliantly balanced tradition and modernity in her paintings, embodying what India's education system aims to foster – an appreciation for heritage while embracing the future. This narrative of success extends beyond classrooms to the realm of skill development, where young Indians are shaping industries. At the National Skill Training Institute in Noida, two young women who had completed training in Artificial Intelligence (AI) developed a chatbot. Their achievement demonstrated the immense potential of India's youth, and their dedication to mentoring others was a testament to the transformative power of skill development.

Education goes beyond academics; it is about preparing youth to engage with the world, to think critically, and to solve problems creatively. Likewise, skill development is more than technical training – it is about empowerment and ensuring that young people have the tools they need to adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing global landscape. This is the time to identify and support high-impact sectors such as sports among others, from school to skilling to livelihoods, and having these benefit the personal development of individuals.

In skill development, significant strides have been made. One of the highlights was India's participation in the WorldSkills competition in Lyon, France, where I watched proudly as 60 of our most skilled participants competed across 50 disciplines. Their remarkable performance showcased India's potential to become the skill capital of the world. The vision is to see India rise to the top of the WorldSkills leaderboard and perhaps be engaged beyond just as a participant. Another key milestone was revamping the Model Skill Loan Scheme. In alignment with the goals of the 2024-25 Budget, the loan limit for skilling was increased to ₹7.5 lakh, up from ₹1.5 lakh, with a broader lending network that now includes small finance banks and additional courses.

An industry-driven approach has been central to all these efforts. New partnerships are set to enhance our outreach and, partnering with countries such as our recent collaboration with Malaysia aims to strengthen workforce development and expertise exchange. The future of India's youth lies in the meeting of education and skill development, where schools nurture creativity and values, and skill programmes prepare young professionals to lead in emerging industries such as AI, robotics, and renewable energy. The work ahead is critical but we have reason to be optimistic.

Reflecting on such stories of resilience, talent, and determination evokes a deep sense of responsibility. These encounters have left a profound impact, renewing the commitment to serve with even greater dedication. Let us continue our work to build a nation where every dream has the chance to flourish, and every talent is given the opportunity to shine.

The future of youth lies in the meeting of education and skill development, where schools nurture creativity and values, and skill programmes prepare young professionals to lead in emerging industries

Maharashtra's populist gamble

Ladki Bahin scheme risks worsening the fiscal crisis, reflecting a troubling trend

STATE OF PLAY

Piyush Zaware

In a bold but perilous move, the Maharashtra government has introduced the 'Ladki Bahin' scheme, a populist initiative brimming with promises of financial aid and incentives. However, this well-intentioned but flawed programme highlights a grim reality: the State's leadership is sacrificing long-term fiscal stability for short-term electoral gains. While the scheme offers financial relief, its execution may worsen Maharashtra's precarious financial situation.

Maharashtra is grappling with a revenue deficit of ₹20,151 crore and a fiscal deficit of ₹1,10,355 crore, with its debt burden exceeding seven lakh crore. Amid this, the government has introduced seven new flagship schemes estimated to cost nearly one lakh crore. The reallocation of funds for these schemes has placed immense pressure on essential services and existing programmes.

A consequence of this mismanagement is the suspension of aid to families of farmers who have died by suicide – a critical support measure of one lakh per family. Additionally, contractors across the Public Works Department are awaiting payments totaling approximately ₹500 crore for completed projects. These delays and suspensions underscore the significant strain on Maharashtra's fiscal health.

The Ladki Bahin scheme exemplifies a broader trend in Indian politics: the reliance on populist schemes for immediate electoral gains. Financial aid may offer temporary relief, but these programmes rarely address the root causes

of poverty and economic inequality. Such initiatives lead to unsustainable fiscal practices, failing to generate long-term growth or job creation.

During the UPA-II tenure, India experienced a period of fiscal stability, with a focus on employment creation through programmes such as MNREGA. This approach, prioritising sustainable job creation and infrastructure development, laid the foundation for long-term economic stability rather than opting for quick fixes.

Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have set valuable examples with their cash transfer schemes for women. Tamil Nadu's Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai offers ₹1,000 per month to women above 21, with stringent eligibility criteria based on income and land ownership. West Bengal's Lakshmi Bhandar Scheme provides ₹500 to ₹1,000 per month based on caste and enrollment in the Swasthya Sathi health scheme. The Ladki Bahin scheme, however, appears to be a hasty imitation rather than a thoughtful adaptation of these models.

Flawed execution

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar once said, "However good a Constitution may be, if those who are implementing it are not good, it will prove to be bad. However bad a Constitution may be, if those implementing it are good, it will prove to be good." This wisdom is particularly relevant to Maharashtra's current schemes. Despite noble intentions, the Ladki Bahin initiative is hampered by poor planning and execution, leading to diverted resources, broader financial distress, and ineffective outcomes.

The increasing reliance on freebie culture in Indian politics is reaching dangerous levels, posing risks to the country's fiscal health. While direct bank transfers are often promoted as solutions to poverty, they come with considerable costs. Other segments of society ultimately bear these financial burdens, especially when such schemes lack complementary strategies for employment generation or sustainable development.

Economists warn that India could face a fiscal collapse similar to Sri Lanka's if such trends continue. In countries such as Turkmenistan, subsidies have been curtailed to target only those in genuine need. As neighbouring nations retreat from excessive subsidies, India's political landscape appears to be moving in the opposite direction.

The current situation demands a critical reassessment of welfare schemes. States must shift from short-term freebies to sustainable solutions that offer long-term benefits. Expanding successful programmes, enhancing employment opportunities, and ensuring the efficient execution of welfare schemes can provide more substantial and lasting benefits to society. A strategic shift towards sustainable, employment-focused policies is essential to balance immediate relief with the State's long-term fiscal health.

Piyush Zaware is a Master of Public Policy student at the University of Chicago

Varied voting trends in J&K

While the voter turnout was higher than the Lok Sabha polls, only six of the 20 districts registered an increase since 2014 Assembly polls

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Continuing the trend of turning up in decent numbers for elections, the recently concluded three-phased Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir registered a voter turnout of 63.9%, higher than the 58.5% recorded in the recently concluded Lok Sabha election. The turnout figure was marginally lower compared to 2014 when the last Assembly election in the erstwhile undivided State of J&K was held.

The Assembly was dissolved on November 21, 2018, by the then-Governor of J&K, Satya Pal Malik, and less than a year later, the State lost its special status with the dilution of Article 370. The State was then split into two Union Territories of Ladakh and J&K.

A major delimitation exercise by the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission that followed, notified new boundaries, names, and number of Assembly constituencies. This led to an increase of seven additional seats in J&K (six in Jammu and one in Kashmir).

Chart 1 takes a look, after excluding districts in Ladakh, at the voter turnout in J&K's Assembly polls since 1962. Voter turnout steadily increased after being as low as 39.2% in 1962 and peaked in 1987 with 73.2% participation. However, the figures from 1987 must be taken with a pinch of salt as these elections are reputed to have been rigged.

Since 1987, the advent of militancy and its intensity led to an infrequency of regular elections, and reduced participation in them, especially in constituencies belonging to the Kashmir valley. Turnout fell to 43.1% overall in J&K.

A weakening of militancy in the early 2000s, besides measures taken by multiple administrations to restore political dialogue, resulted in a growing participation in elections. The apogee was the 65.7% turnout registered in the 2014 Assembly polls when except for Srinagar, Shopian, and Kulgam, voter turnout was close to or more than 60% across the valley and in Jammu. **Table 2** shows the district-wise voter turnout over the last three Assembly elections in J&K.

In the 2024 Assembly election, Kishtwar in Jammu recorded the highest turnout – 80.2%. While all 10 districts in Jammu have recorded at least 70% turnout, participation peaked in Kashmir districts at 67.7%, in Bandipore. Srinagar remains a district with limited participation, turning out only at 30%.

Data shows that the voter turnout has decreased in at least 14 of the 20 districts across the U.T. compared to the 2014 Assembly election.

The voter turnout in most of these districts is lower than that during the 2014 State Assembly polls except for six districts – Kulgam (increased by 3.4 % points), Pulwama (2.5% points), Shopian (8.5% points), Srinagar (2.1% points albeit over a low base of 27.9%), Kishtwar (3.4% points) and Baramulla (3.3% points). The presence of independents supported by the banned Jamaat-e-Islami and the Engineer Rashid-led Awami Ittehad Party being part of the fray in Baramulla has helped raise participation in these districts.

Map 3 shows the constituency-wise voter turnout in the 2024 Assembly election in J&K.

Inderwal and Padder-Nagseni, which share borders with Himachal Pradesh, registered the highest voter turnout in 2024 – 82.2% and 80.7% respectively. The seats, that were newly delimited, such as Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and both Udhampur East and West, have also managed to pull high numbers.

Map 4 shows the constituency-wise difference in voter turnout between 2014 and 2024. The Sopore seat in Kashmir recorded the highest increase of almost 15% points, while Budgam registered the steepest decline – 14%.

Ups and downs in turnouts in J&K

The data for the charts and tables were sourced from Lok Dhaba and the Election Commission of India

Chart 1 | Overall voter turnout in J&K Assembly polls over the years (in %)

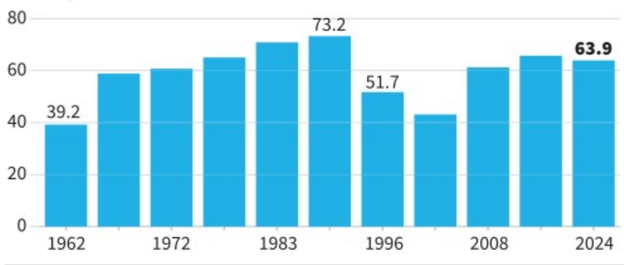
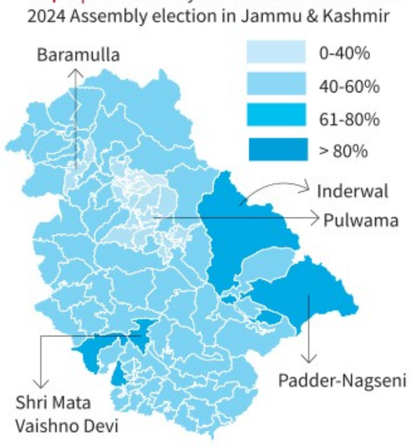


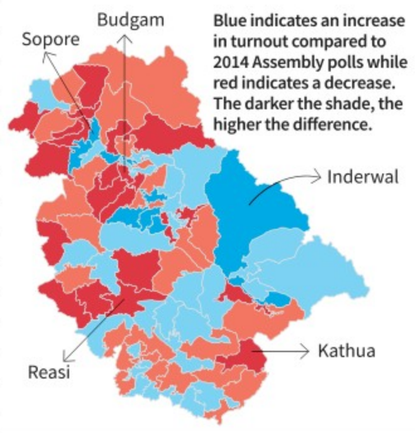
Table 2 | District-wise voter turnout in the past 3 Assembly polls in J&K. The last column shows the difference between 2014 and 2024 turnout. Figures in %

District	Phase	Region	2008	2014	2024	Difference
Kishtwar	Phase 1	JAMMU	73.6	76.8	**80.2**	3.4
Ramban	Phase 1	JAMMU	66.7	71.2	**70.6**	-0.6
Udhampur	Phase 3	JAMMU	64.0	76.8	**76.0**	-0.8
Samba	Phase 3	JAMMU	76.9	77.3	**76.5**	-0.8
Jammu	Phase 3	JAMMU	71.8	73.6	**71.4**	-2.2
Doda	Phase 1	JAMMU	68.7	73.6	**71.3**	-2.3
Kathua	Phase 3	JAMMU	70.5	76.4	**73.4**	-3.0
Poonch	Phase 2	JAMMU	75.6	77.5	**74.4**	-3.1
Reasi	Phase 2	JAMMU	75.6	81.4	**74.7**	-6.7
Rajouri	Phase 2	JAMMU	73.3	78.6	**71.1**	-7.5
Shopian	Phase 1	KASHMIR	50.7	48.5	**57.0**	8.5
Kulgam	Phase 1	KASHMIR	64.4	59.7	**63.1**	3.4
Baramulla	Phase 3	KASHMIR	48.0	57.7	**61.0**	3.3
Pulwama	Phase 1	KASHMIR	46.1	44.5	**47.0**	2.5
Srinagar	Phase 2	KASHMIR	21.6	27.9	**30.0**	2.1
Anantnag	Phase 1	KASHMIR	63.2	60.7	**57.9**	-2.8
Ganderbal	Phase 2	KASHMIR	55.1	67.6	**62.8**	-4.8
Kupwara	Phase 3	KASHMIR	68.0	72.0	**66.8**	-5.2
Bandipore	Phase 3	KASHMIR	59.8	74.5	**67.7**	-6.8
Budgam	Phase 2	KASHMIR	62.4	73.2	**63.2**	-10.0

Map 3 | Constituency-wise voter turnout in the 2024 Assembly election in Jammu & Kashmir



Map 4| Constituency-wise difference in voter turnout between 2014 and 2024


Budgam
Sopore
Blue indicates an increase in turnout compared to 2014 Assembly polls while red indicates a decrease. The darker the shade, the higher the difference.
Inderwal
Kathua
Reasi

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 7, 1974

Join mainstream of politics, Sirimavo appeals to Tamils

Colombo, Oct. 8: The Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, to-day promised to hold "fairly early" the by-election to the Kankasanturai parliamentary seat in the Tamil-speaking northern province. She made this promise at a trade union rally held in Jaffna to mark her first visit to the province as Prime Minister.

The seat was vacated by the leader of the minority Tamil United Front. Mr. SJ.V. Chelvanayagam, two years ago, as a challenge to the Government to prove by contesting the by-election, its claim that the bulk of the Tamil community had accepted the 30-month-old Constitution. The TUF has rejected the Constitution on the ground that Tamil language and non-Buddhist religions have not been given parity of status in it along with the majority Sinhala and Buddhism.

Mrs. Bandaranaike in her speeches, one at the rally and another at the inauguration of the first campus of Sri Lanka University in Jaffna, appealed to the Tamil community to eschew "communalism and sectarianism" and enter the mainstream of politics as equals and partners in nation-building. Mr. Bandaranaike hailed the Tamil community as "vigorous, intelligent, and patriotic".

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 7, 1924

Anglo-Indian problems.

Calcutta, Oct. 6: The annual general meeting of the Indian and Domiciled European Association held today under the presidency of Lt. Col. H. A. Gidney has adopted the resolution recording its sense of deep concern at the anomalous and unsatisfactory position occupied by the Anglo-Indian community under the Indian Penal Code in so far as it touches trial by jury and earnestly requesting the Government of India to give this matter their urgent and sympathetic consideration with a view to remove this anomaly. Another resolution views with much surprise and disappointment the attitude of the Government in respect of the claims of the community for the formation of an Anglo-Indian unit and requests the Government that early steps be taken to raise such a regiment in deference to the unanimous wishes of the community.

From Page One

HC orders autopsy at AIIMS for rape victim

Sukanta Majumdar along with BJP supporters protesting against the alleged rape-murder in Kultali on Sunday. ANI

The child's family members alleged that they were made to run from a police outpost at Mahismari to the Jaynagar police station, claiming that if the police had taken action in time, the child could have been saved.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee broke her silence over the incident on Sunday, and noted that in three recent cases under POCSO, the State government has been able to obtain death sentences for the accused.

"I want the police to register the Kultuli case under the POCSO Act and ensure that the culprits get capital punishment within three months. Crime is crime; there is no religion or caste. Strong action should be taken against the criminals," the Chief Minister said.

Baruipur Superintendent of Police Palash Chandra Dhali said that the allegations of police inaction were not true as the police arrested the accused within five hours of the complaint.

On Sunday, BJP leaders staged a demonstration outside the Kultali police station and tried to break the barricades. State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar and BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul were among those who took part in the demonstration. The police used force to restrain BJP supporters when they tried to breach the barricades.

Muizzu to meet Modi, request India's support over looming economic crisis

The Maldivian President has said he hoped that India would be ready to ease the Maldives' burden; he is expected to seek a currency swap arrangement and debt support from India; any default in repayment of the rising external debt would spiral the Maldives into a major crisis

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu landed in New Delhi on Sunday for a four-day state visit to India and is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday morning with a looming economic crisis and an imminent debt repayment on his hands back home.

In an interview to an international broadcaster ahead of his visit, Mr. Muizzu said he hoped that India would be ready to "ease the Maldives' burden", and he is expected to request a currency swap arrangement and debt support during bilateral talks at Hyderabad House, after he receives a guard of honour at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"India is fully cognisant of our fiscal situation, and as one of our biggest development partners, will always be ready to ease our burden, find better alternatives and solutions to the challenges we face," Mr. Muizzu had told the BBC in a written interview.

In September, India announced that the State Bank of India would subscribe Maldivian government bonds of $50 million, staving off the country's most imminent crisis, and Mr. Muizzu is expected to request Indian support in terms of currency swaps and debt waivers. He had earlier announced that China, a significant creditor, has agreed to defer loan repayments for five years.

Friendly ties: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu during a meeting in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

On October 8, Maldives is due to make a $25 million payment towards its $500 million *sukuk* (Islamic bonds) debt repayment, out of a total $114 million still due this year, and about $1.5 billion in the next two years. In view of the rising external debt, high debt to GDP ratio - at approximately 110% - and falling foreign exchange reserves - at about $440 million, credit rating agencies Moody's and Fitch have both downgraded the Maldives in recent weeks, and any default on payments is likely to spiral the Maldives into a major crisis akin to the one faced by Sri Lanka in 2022.

On Sunday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, and other officials called on Mr. Muizzu to prepare for the talks, which are expected to end with announcements of MoUs on Indian infrastructure projects, security cooperation, and bilateral cooperation in other fields.

In a social media post, Mr. Jaishankar said Mr. Muizzu's talks with Prime Minister Modi would "give a new impetus" to India-Maldives ties.

"I am confident that this visit will pave the way to further elevating the close neighbourly relations between our two countries and strengthen the enduring friendship and cooperation between our two peoples," Maldives' newly appointed Foreign Minister, Abdulla Khaleel, also said in a post describing the meeting, without offering any specifics on the discussions.

Full turnaround

The visit by Mr. Muizzu to Delhi, his second since he attended Mr. Modi's swearing-in ceremony, marks a full turnaround in ties between the two countries from the tensions between them over the past year.

Mr. Muizzu won elections in the Maldives last year on the back of an 'India Out' campaign and insisted that India withdraw military personnel from the archipelago by May this year. Unlike leaders of other friendly countries in the neighbourhood, Mr. Muizzu did not make India his first destination abroad, and visited Turkiye, UAE, and China instead over the past year.

Tensions also rose over remarks by Maldivian Ministers that were critical of Mr. Modi and led to an informal 'Boycott Maldives' campaign by certain tour operators, that has halved the number of Indian tourists travelling there. However, after a number of bilateral ministerial meetings, and the Modi government completing the withdrawal of military personnel, ties have warmed up and Mr. Muizzu recently sacked the Ministers involved.

While Mr. Muizzu's visit to India has been expected for some weeks, the economic situation in the Maldives, as well as a Cabinet reshuffle after the resignation of the Finance Minister, had delayed plans. Former Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer, who visited Delhi in May, has now been appointed the Finance Minister.

Mr. Muizzu and his delegation will travel to Agra and Mumbai on Tuesday and then to Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Protests erupt over remarks by former chief of Goa RSS; Rahul Gandhi slams BJP

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

Protests erupted in Goa on Sunday over the remarks on St. Francis Xavier by Subhash Velingkar, the former Goa unit chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

Several people took to the streets demanding Mr. Velingkar's arrest.

They also presented a memorandum at a police station demanding that he be externed till the decennial exposition of the sacred relics of St. Francis Xavier gets over.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi slammed the RSS, the Goa government, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing them of disrupting communal harmony.

"Goa's appeal lies in its natural beauty and the warmth and hospitality of its diverse and harmonious people. Unfortunately, under BJP rule, this harmony is under attack. The BJP is deliberately stoking communal tensions, with a former RSS leader provoking Christians, and Sangh organisations calling for an economic boycott of Muslims," Mr. Gandhi said in a post on X.

Subhash Velingkar

Across India, similar actions by the Sangh Parivar continue with impunity, backed by support from the highest levels, he said.

"In Goa, the BJP's strategy is clear: divide the people while exploiting ecologically sensitive areas by illegally converting green land and bypassing environmental regulations – an assault on Goa's natural and social heritage. BJP's attempts will not go unchallenged. The people of Goa and the whole of India see through this divisive agenda and are standing united," Mr. Gandhi said.

Girish Chodankar, former president of Goa Pradesh Congress committee, told *The Hindu* that this was not the first time that the former RSS chief had made hurtful remarks against St. Francis Xavier, who is considered *Goencho Saib* (protector of Goa).

Aam Aadmi Party State unit president Amit Palekar said, "Don't let the peace and harmony of the State be disturbed. We have lived in peace for ages, and that should not be destroyed."

In a statement on Saturday evening, Fr. Savio Fernandes, executive secretary, Council for Social Justice and Peace, said the Goan Catholic community condemned the insulting and derogatory remarks made by Mr. Velingkar.

He said the remarks had deeply hurt the religious sentiments of not only the Catholics but also of many from other faiths who revere the saint.

Tensions in Saharanpur over Narsinghanand's remarks; several FIRs registered

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW/SRINAGAR

Tensions mounted at Sheikhpura Kadeem village in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday over the alleged defamatory comments made by priest Yati Narsinghanand on Prophet Muhammed, leading to heavy stone throwing by protesters.

The police used mild force to control the crowd. Additional forces were deployed in the village to control the situation.

"Roughly 1,500 people submitted memorandum at the Kotwali Dehat police station limits over the comment related to a particular community. The police took the memorandum in the village itself, despite that some people tried to reach the police post, which was stopped by the authorities. Afterwards, stones were thrown at police personnel, forcing the authorities to use force. Police registered a case under Section 190, 191(2), 352, 125 and other Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against 20 named and other unnamed accused. Thirteen people have been arrested. Further action is undergoing," the Saharanpur police said in a statement.

Yati Narsinghanand

Mr. Narsinghanand is the head priest of the Dasna Devi temple in Ghaziabad.

FIRs in Maharashtra

At least 10 FIRs have been registered across Maharashtra against the priest. The Maharashtra Police said they would compile the FIRs against Mr. Narsinghanand and send them to Ghaziabad.

"The R.C.F. police station on Saturday informed us that they will compile all the FIRs and register a Zero FIR and submit them at the Ghaziabad police station," Maharashtra president of Social Democratic Party of India Sayed Kaleem said.

Protests in J&K

In Srinagar, top BJP leaders joined the condemnation of Mr. Narsinghanand for his alleged remarks against the Prophet and sought action against him.

"There is a need for maintaining communal harmony. Such inflammatory rhetoric goes against the values of peace and unity that India stands for," BJP State president Ravinder Raina said.

Prominent Muslim leaders from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have written a joint letter to Home Minister Amit Shah and demanded "legal action against the Hindu priest".

The letter appealed to the Home Minister "to address the matter with seriousness and take necessary steps to restore peace and harmony among all communities".

Denied Jantar Mantar nod, Wangchuk sits on fast at Ladakh Bhavan

Iron will: Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk during his hunger strike at the Ladakh Bhavan in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk began an indefinite hunger strike along with others at the Ladakh Bhavan here on Sunday after the Delhi Police denied them permission to protest at Jantar Mantar, the designated location for protests in Delhi.

Mr. Wangchuk, who set out on a foot march from Leh on September 1 along with 150 supporters, was detained by the police as the contingent reached the Delhi boundary on September 30. After remaining in detention for three days, he was released on October 3.

Other than raising concerns over environmental degradation in the Himalayan region, Mr. Wangchuk has been demanding constitutional safeguards for Ladakh, including Statehood, Ladakh's inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (protection of tribal areas), employment opportunities for local people, and a meeting with either the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, or the President of India.

"We deferred our congregation at Jantar Mantar (last week) and ended our fast at Raj Ghat on October 2 as we were promised an appointment with the top leaders of the country. Since no date has been conveyed to us till now, we have decided to proceed on an indefinite hunger fast," Mr. Wangchuk said.

"So after trying everything possible to find a legitimate place for our anshan fast in New Delhi, we have finally decided to start our fast here at Ladakh Bhavan New Delhi where I was virtually detained for the last 4 days. Among us we have 75 year olds, women n men who walked for 32 days from Leh to Delhi... roughly 1,000 km," Mr. Wangchuk had earlier posted on social media platform X.

The organisers, the 'People's Movement For Sixth Schedule For Ladakh', applied for permission on September 24 to march in Delhi and also hold a *jan sabha* (congregation) at Jantar Mantar, which was neither agreed to nor denied by the Delhi Police.

Prohibitory orders

On September 30, when the protestors were to enter Delhi, the Delhi Police issued prohibitory orders and detained them. Under police protection, Mr. Wangchuk, who was on a hunger strike in detention, was taken to Raj Ghat on October 2, where he handed over a memorandum to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, and broke his fast.

The organisers applied again for a two-day demonstration on October 5 and 6 at Jantar Mantar, which was denied by the New Delhi district police on Sunday, stating that it was not in consonance with the Supreme Court's guidelines, following which Mr. Wangchuk proceeded on a fast at the Ladakh Bhavan.

Air Force plans to procure 12 early warning aircraft

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF), which is short of Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft, a critical force multiplier, is looking at the procurement of 12 aircraft under two different programmes.

One of them is a follow-on order of six AEW&C systems mounted on Embraer aircraft, akin to the three Netra systems in service. The other order pertains to six AEW&C systems under development by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) that would be mounted on Airbus A-321 aircraft.

"We have three of them, the Embraer-based AEW&C. We have plan for six more. We are calling them MkIA, with minor modifications to the equipment that is inside. [The] idea is to buy the aircraft from Embraer; DRDO Centre for Air Borne Systems (CABS) will be doing the modifications. It is a proven design with minimum risk involved and maximum output," Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh said last week. "We should be having it cleared by Defence Acquisition Council very soon."

The Air chief said the other development relates to the AEW&C-Mk2, with an Airbus-based system, for which contract negotiations were currently ongoing. "Modification of aircraft is by Airbus, equipment is being developed by DRDO. Initial contract is to be signed with Airbus by DRDO... negotiations are on to come to the correct configurations, as well the price negotiations," he added.

Netra AEW&C mounted on Embraer aircraft, flanked by Su-30 MKI of the IAF, during an air show in Uttar Pradesh. SANDEEP SAXENA

Six Airbus A-321 passenger aircraft with Air India were transferred to the IAF sometime ago and are awaiting modifications to be undertaken, pending the conclusion of the contract.

Delayed process

Defence officials said that the modifications required for the aircraft turned out to be significantly more extensive and complex than anticipated, and thus the negotiations over the cost too have dragged on, and the process has been delayed.

One official involved in the project said the AEW&C mounted on the Airbus aircraft would provide 300-degree coverage.

The IAF also operates three Israeli Phalcon Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) in addition to the Netra AEW&C systems. While the Phalcons, which have a radome mounted on top of an IL-76 transport aircraft, provide 360-degree coverage, the Netra provides 240-degree coverage of airspace.

A shortage of these force multipliers was felt during the aerial engagement with the Pakistan Air Force, a day after the Balakot air strike in February 2019. A long-pending proposal to procure two additional Israeli Phalcons has not materialised.

As a huge 15-lakh crowd watches, IAF planes push the envelope over Chennai's Marina

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Feats in the air: IAF aircraft performing at an air show to mark the 92nd Indian Air Force Day celebrations over the Marina beach in Chennai on Sunday. Over 15 lakh people watched the performance. R. RAGHU & B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Over 15 lakh people from various parts of Chennai and neighbouring districts thronged the Marina beach and its neighbourhood on Sunday to witness a spectacular air show conducted as part of the 92nd Indian Air Force Day celebrations.

Fighter jets, helicopters and other aircraft put up a scintillating aerial display, enthralling the audience. The aircraft that participated in various formations included Tejas jets, Rafales, Sukhoi 30 MKIs, Jaguars, Mirage 2000s, MiG-29s, Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40s, Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-Is, Hawk MKs, Chetaks, Dakotas and Harvards.

The fly-past, conducted between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., began with a Dhwaj formation of Chetak helicopters carrying the flags of India and the IAF, followed by other formations including Puyal by the Rafales, Pallava by Harvards, Kalam by HTT-40s, Kaveri by C295 and Dornier 228s, Nilgiri by Jaguars, Kartikeya and Pandiyan by Tejas jets, Marina and Chola by Sukhoi 30 MKIs, Dhanush by P-8I and Rafales, Sarang by ALH MK-Is and Mahabali by C-17 and the Surya Kiran Aerobatic team, Kanchi by Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft and MiG-29s, Sangam by light combat helicopters, Chera by Dakotas and PC 7 aircraft, and Natraj by IL-78 and Mirage 2000s.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, Ministers, MPs and senior officials from the armed forces witnessed the air show.

The show is set to enter the *Limca Book of Records* with over 15 lakh people watching the spectacular performance by the IAF's 72 aircraft, a defence press release said.

People from areas close to the beach such as Chepauk and Triplicane watched the show from their terraces.

The annual event used to be held in New Delhi for the longest time, until it was shifted three years ago to other cities. The air show was organised in Chandigarh in 2022 and Prayagraj in 2023.

This year, Chennai hosted the show, the largest in scale and audience, the release said.

Five dead

Five persons who watched the air show fainted and died later, the police said. Despite the humidity and the long wait to watch the aircraft, the crowds seemed eager to watch the display happening in the city after a span of two decades.

BJP set to get largest chunk of seats in *Mahayuti* alliance

Under the deal, BJP will contest 150 of the 288 seats; Shinde-led Sena will get 80-90 seats, rest will go to Ajit's NCP; no new face for CM candidate

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Sealing the deal: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde with Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar. FILE PHOTO

Seat-sharing arrangements among the constituents of the ruling *Mahayuti* alliance for the Maharashtra Assembly election are almost final, with a call having been taken not to project a new face as Chief Minister and incumbent Eknath Shinde occupying his current position through the campaign.

In the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly, there is to be a three-way split of seats in the *Mahayuti* and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliances.

Sources in the BJP said the party would contest up to 150 Assembly seats. The Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) is likely to get between 80 and 90 seats, and the rest will go to the Nationalist Congress Party-Ajit Pawar, they added.

The number of seats the BJP will contest is fewer than the 164 it did in 2019 in an alliance with a united Shiv Sena under Uddhav Thackeray. It had won 105 of the 164 seats, with the Shiv Sena winning 56 of the 126 it had contested.

"The situation is very different now compared with 2019, with Eknath Shinde's Sena expected to aggressively take on Uddhav's Shiv Sena, especially in the Konkan belt," a senior BJP source said.

In terms of the campaign narrative, the *Mahayuti* is banking heavily on the State government's Ladki Bahin Yojana providing income support for women, and Mr. Shinde is the face behind the scheme.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's characterisation of himself as "Abhimanyu", having entered a "*chakravyuh* of political challenges", at a recent event points to the fact that the BJP is not keen on settling the leadership situation within its own ranks, and certainly not for the alliance.

BJP leaders assert that unlike the Lok Sabha election, efforts are being made to ensure coordination between the party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, which was upset at the inclusion of the Ajit-led NCP in the *Mahayuti*. "Apart from Atul Limaya*ji*, the RSS's joint general secretary, who is helping us coordinate efforts for the Assembly polls, V. Satish, national joint general secretary (organisation) of the BJP, is also being involved on behalf of the BJP for this purpose," a senior source in the BJP said.

BJP leaders are anticipating many rebel candidates from across all six parties in view of the uncertain situation. Rebel candidates, BJP leaders say, are likely to approach the Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi for the Vidarbha region, and Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena for the Konkan belt.

"It's a tricky election, the first such since 1999, in my view. It's also a tough situation for the *Mahayuti*, which is facing headwinds. But to say that the situation is the same as it was on June 4 [when the Lok Sabha election results were declared] is not true," the source said.

Congress flags three clouds that loom over economy

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday said the past 10 years had seen "highly detrimental economic trends".

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the monsoon had receded but at least "three dark clouds" of languishing private sector investment, stagnating manufacturing and decline in real wages and productivity for labourers, still loomed over the economy. He said bombastic claims were being made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his drumbeaters but what they concealed were the choke points that would strangulate growth if not taken seriously.

Will campaign for PM if he gives free electricity in BJP-ruled States: Kejriwal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Poll promises: AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi Chief Minister Atishi at a rally in New Delhi on Sunday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said that he would campaign for Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Delhi Assembly election due to be held in 2025, if the PM could guarantee free electricity in all 22 States in which the Bharatiya Janata Party is in power.

"I want to tell Modi*ji*, next September 17 you will turn 75 and retire. You have one more year left. I challenge Modi*ji*, in the next one year, in your 22 States, fix the schools or make electricity free. I want to tell Modi*ji*, just do one thing. In February, Delhi elections are due. In all 22 States, make electricity free before February, then I will campaign for Modi*ji* during Delhi elections," Mr. Kejriwal said, addressing people at the AAP's *Janta Ki Adalat* programme.

The AAP supremo said the BJP's "double-engine governments" had failed across the country, adding that exit polls showed that the party was losing power in Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir. He said the BJP could not even show improvement in Gujarat, where it has been in power for 30 years.

"Double-engine governments have failed in the country. One engine had failed in June when they got 240 seats. Now, the second engine is going one by one. It's leaving Haryana, then Jammu & Kashmir, then it will leave Jharkhand, and then Maharashtra. People have understood that double-engine government means inflation, unemployment, and corruption," he said.

"During the 1990s, we used to hear that the underworld ruled Mumbai. That is the state of Delhi now. Delhi Police is under the BJP-led Centre and they don't take care of the law and order situation in Delhi. They are just focused on stopping Delhi government's works... Today, I promise to you all that I will get full Statehood for Delhi," he said.

Haryana records 67.90% voter turnout in Assembly election

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Haryana recorded a voter turnout of nearly 68% for the Assembly election that was held on Sunday, said the Election Commission.

"67.90% voting took place on October 5 for the 15th Assembly General Election-2024 in the State. The highest 75.36% voting was recorded in Sirsa district and the lowest 56.49% voting was recorded in Faridabad district," said Haryana's Chief Electoral Officer Pankaj Agarwal.

"Apart from this, the highest 80.61% voting was recorded in Ellenabad Assembly constituency and the lowest 48.27% voting was recorded in Badkhal Assembly constituency," he added.

J&K L-G's power to nominate five MLAs keeps parties on edge ahead of counting

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Ahead of the counting of votes for the Assembly election on Tuesday, political parties in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) have expressed concern over Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha's power to nominate five MLAs to the Assembly of the Union Territory (UT).

The J&K Delimitation Commission, in May 2022, increased the number of the seats in the Assembly by seven – six in the Jammu region and one in the Kashmir region, taking the total number of seats to 90, under Section 9(1)(a) of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Section 60(2)(b) of the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. Jammu now has 43 seats, and Kashmir 47.

Eight months later, a fresh order granted the Lieutenant-Governor powers to nominate five members – two women, two Kashmiri Pandits and a displaced person from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir – to the Assembly, increasing the total number of seats to 95. These five MLAs "will hold full legislative powers and privileges, just like elected representatives", the order said.

"We are not sure whether the parties have to reach the 46 mark to achieve a majority or 48. There seems to be a deliberate attempt to keep the matter under wraps and use it depending on the [election] results. It has the potential to upend the poll arithmetic and shift the balance towards the BJP," a senior Peoples Democratic Party leader told *The Hindu*, on the condition of anonymity.

Party leader Mohit Bhan said the BJP will open its account with five nominated MLAs without contesting.

'Unconstitutional move'

National Conference (NC) leader Rattan Lal Gupta too expressed reservations. "This move is unconstitutional and undemocratic. Such powers lie solely with an elected government and cannot be exercised by the L-G in the absence of an elected body," he said.

J&K Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hameed Karra termed the nomination powers "pre-poll rigging".

He said the Lieutenant-Governor's power could be used to "convert a minority into a majority or majority into a minority". "Such nominations without consulting elected representatives or the government undermine democracy. The mandate of the people must be respected," he said.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Work Description	Due date
242523 002198	Civil and Structural works for Tissue Paper Machine (TM#5) complex at TNPL Unit - II	21.10.2024

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, bid fee and EMD details are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/4078/Tender/2024 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender Call Notice E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle - 10/2024-25 Memo No -1899 Dt.27.09.2024
The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road works as detailed in the table below:
1. Nature of Work : Road Works
2. No of Work : 4 Nos
3. Tender Cost : Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
4. Class of Contractor : A & Special Class
5. Available of Bid document in the Website : From 10.00 AM of Dt.08.10.2024 up to 05.00 PM of Dt.24.10.2024 up to 5.00 PM
6. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.25.10.2024 at 11.30 AM
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website:https://tenderodisha.gov.in. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
B-358: OIPR-34127/11/0013/2425

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, PIN:751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e-Mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com; GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM
"e"-Procurement Notice No. 27 /OCCL/2024-25 (on-line)
On-line percentage rate tenders are invited for the following works :

Sl No	Name of work	Name of Division	Bid Identification No.	Approx. value of work	Bid Security (through on-line transfer/ as per DTCN) (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability & Submission of tender (on-line)
1	Improvement to Kundhei Distributary from RD 16.200 Km to 20.332 Km of Gop Branch Canal System	Nimapara Irrigation Division	OCCL-HQP/55/24-25	Rs.7.55 Crore	Rs.7,50,000/-	9 (Nine) Calendar months	From 07.10.2024, 03.30 PM to 21.10.2024, 5.30 PM.
2	Improvement to periphery road on right side of Kuanria Dam & road to view tower of Kuanria Irrigation Project	Nayagarh Irrigation Division	OCCL-HQP/56/24-25	Rs.0.87 Crore	Rs.87,000/-	6 (Six) Calendar months	
3	Restoration to right bank service road from 00 Km to 2.04 Km & Jayantipur distributary of Bahuda Irrigation Project	Chikiti Irrigation Division	OCCL-GMP/06/24-25	Rs.7.30 Crore	Rs.7,30,000/-	6 (Six) Calendar months	

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL.
Date of Opening of the Tender : 22.10.2024, 12.00 Noon onwards
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal : https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
CAD-1311 MANAGING DIRECTOR
OIPR-34176/11/0014/2425

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP-Portal)
BWSSB invites tenders in two cover system from eligible tenderers for the following works

	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender / EMD
	Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore- 560009	
Sl. No	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(E)/ACE(E)-2/DCE(M)-I/TA(E)/5342/2024-25 Date: 04.10.2024	
1.	Work of providing and laying of 300 mm dia MS water supply pipe line to improve water supply facilities to Yemalur, Kempapura and surrounding area coming under Marathahalli Service Station of AEESE-2 Sub Division. (Action plan work)	153.43 lakhs / 2.30 lakhs
2.	Work providing and laying and linking of 450 mm dia MS water supply pipe line from Berlie Street to Double Road KSRTC Office along Longford Road in lieu of existing 250 mm & 300 mm dia CI lines coming under Johnson Market Service Station of AEESE-1 Sub Division. (Action plan work)	235.66 lakhs / 3.54 lakhs
3.	Work of providing and laying pipe of 457 mm dia x 6.4 mm thick MS water supply pipe line, tapping from 762 mm dia MS feeder water supply pipe line at AET junction to Soul Kere Main Road to facilitate water supply facilities to M/s. RMZ ECO World Campus-3 (OWC ID: 197013SE3) coming under Doddakannahalli Service Station of AEESE-3 Sub Division. (DC work)	172.46 lakhs / 2.59 lakhs
4.	Work of providing, laying and linking of 900 mm dia MS pipe line in Bannerghatta Road along Hosur Road to CLR in place of existing CI line coming under Johnson Market Service Station of AEESE-1 Sub Division. (Action plan work)	396.63 lakhs / 5.95 lakhs
5.	Work of providing and laying of 300 mm dia RCC NP3 class sewer line and construction of new machine holes in place of damaged / silted up 225 mm dia stone ware pipes at Siddartha Nagara, Domlur Layout and surrounding area coming under Domlur Service Station of AEESE-2 Sub Division. (Action plan work)	122.19 lakhs / 1.83 lakhs

For the above works, last date and time for reciept of tenders will be on **21.10.2024** upto **16:00 hrs**. The bids will be opened on **22.10.2024** after **17:00 hrs**.
Sd/- **Chief Engineer (East)**

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore- 560009

	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/700/2024-25 Date: 05.10.2024	
6.	Work of providing and laying 400 mm dia DI - K9 pipe line from 15 MLD ISPS at Shanthi Nagar to Vinayaka Nagar Nala Road coming under AEE (WWM-K&T-1) Sub Division. **(Call 3)**	280.61 lakhs / 4.21 lakhs
	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/701/2024-25 Date: 05.10.2024	
7.	Work of construction of RCC Compound Wall at K&C Valley STP Premises B Nagasandra coming under EE (WWM-P-CV) Division.	388.76 lakhs / 5.83 lakhs

For the above works, last date and time for reciept of tenders will be on **21.10.2024** upto **17:30 hrs**. The bids will be opened on **23.10.2024** at **16:00 hrs**.
Sd/- **Chief Engineer (WWM-East)**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/MIA/2368/2024-25

INBRIEF

Junior doctors continue their hunger strike in West Bengal

Resident doctors of State-run hospitals in West Bengal continued their hunger strike on Sunday, demanding safety and security at medical colleges in the wake of rape and murder of a doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College. Six junior doctors from different medical colleges and hospitals in the State started the strike from 8.30 p.m. on Saturday after the 24-hour deadline by doctors to the State government ended. The doctors have said that the State government would be responsible if the health of the protesting doctors deteriorate. There have been no attempts by the State government to engage with the doctors on hunger strike.

'CBI, ED, police don't arrest people through video calls'

The CBI, police, customs, Enforcement Directorate or judges do not arrest people through video calls, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) said in a public advisory issued in view of the rising cases of 'digital arrest' crimes in the country. Terming it a scam, I4C cautioned people against falling victim to such crimes committed using the Internet. "Don't Panic, Stay Alert. CBI/Police/Custom/ED/Judges DO NOT arrest you on video call," stated the advisory. The social media platforms like WhatsApp and Skype have said in the past that they are coordinating with cyber security agencies of the government to ensure safety of the users against such crimes.

British, American trekkers rescued from Himalayas

Two women trekkers had lost their way during a trek to the Chaukhamba-III massif in Chamoli on October 3; they were found by a group of French mountaineers and evacuated by IAF choppers

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A group of French mountaineers, with help from a pair of Indian Air Force helicopters, on Sunday managed to rescue two women trekkers, an American and a Briton, who had lost their way during a trek to the Chaukhamba-III massif at Chamoli in the Garhwal Himalayas on October 3.

The Uttarakhand government facilitated the rescue after Michelle Theresa Dvorak, 31, and Fay Manners, 37, lost their luggage containing food and mountaineering equipment.

The pair had set out on September 11 for a trek to Chaukhamba-III, which lies 6,995 metres above sea level.

It takes over a month to complete this trek, even for experts, as the peak poses several challenges with its steep slopes, rock and ice sections, and harsh weather.

Ms. Manners was one of the first two women to ascend to "Phantom Direct", on the South Face Grandes Jorasses in Europe, the longest ice route in the Mont Blanc massif.

The rescued trekkers with Air Force and Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority officials on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Records show she has also climbed the North Face of the Eiger, the American Direct on the Dru, the Walker Spur on the Grandes Jorasses, and the Cassin Ridge on Denali as part of an all-woman team. Ms. Dvorak is a mountaineer and teaching assistant at the University of Washington, says her social media profile.

Lost on the mountain

The Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) said that late in the evening of October 3, the District Emergency Operations Centre in Chamoli received information through the Indian Mountaineering Federation that the two mountaineers were trapped at an altitude of 6,015 metres on Chaukhambha-III.

"The women climbers had sent the information about getting lost on the mountain through pager to their respective embassies. Their luggage had fallen into the ravine, which included their food and essential equipment related to mountaineering, we were told," said Nand Kishore Joshi, Disaster Management Officer, Chamoli. On receiving the information, the State government asked the Defence Ministry to send the Indian Air Force to help rescue the stranded trekkers. Two Cheetah helicopters were sent for the rescue mission from the Sarsawa air base to Joshimath, early on October 4.

"A lot of effort was made to find the two climbers on the coordinates provided by the Air Force helicopters, but no contact could be established with them," Mr. Joshi said.

Search and rescue

This is when the SDMA officials learnt about a group of five French trekkers who had also gone on an expedition along the same route on September 18.

"Through the Indian Mountaineering Federation, we informed the team of these French trekkers about the two women mountaineers. We also shared the possible location of the two and the French trekkers started searching for both. On Saturday night, we were informed that the French team managed to reach out to the women trekkers," Mr. Joshi said.

He added that the coordinates of the stranded trekkers were shared with the IAF, which rescued the pair on Sunday morning.

Five languages got classical tag after key provision dropped

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The panel noted that it was difficult to prove or disprove the original literary tradition of these languages

The Union Cabinet's decision to accord classical language status to five more languages, including Marathi and Bengali, came after a key provision, which mandated that a language must have original literary tradition, was dropped.

"We discussed it in detail and understood that it was a very difficult thing to prove or disprove as all ancient languages borrowed from each other, but recreated the texts in their own way. On the contrary, archaeological, historical and numismatic evidence are tangible things," a senior member of the Linguistic Expert Committee told *The Hindu*.

The committee comprises representatives of the Union Ministries of Home and Culture and four or five linguistic experts at any given time. It is chaired by the President of the Sahitya Akademi.

The criteria were first formulated in 2004 when Tamil was declared a classical language and were revised in November 2005 when Sanskrit was included on the list.

Under the 2005 criteria which were followed till recently, to be designated as classical, a language must have high antiquity of its early texts and recorded history over a period of 1,500-2,000 years, a body of ancient literature or texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers, a literary tradition that is original and not borrowed from another speech community and classical language and literature distinct from modern, and there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

However, with demands for classical status to many languages pending, many of them with tangible political implications, the Linguistics Experts Committee, at a meeting on July 25, unanimously revised the criteria.

It is under these revised norms that the Union Cabinet on Thursday approved classical language status to Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali and Prakrit. A Gazette notification to this effect was issued on October 4.

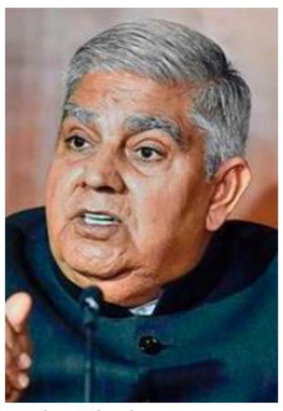
Judiciary, legislature have no executive authority, says V-P

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said the exercise of executive authority by either the judiciary or the legislature was not in consonance with democracy and constitutional prescriptions.

"This is an established position as the executive for governance is alone accountable to the legislature and answerable to courts by way of judicial review," Mr. Dhankhar said here at an event to mark the completion of 75 years in public life by veteran Congress leader and former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Karan Singh.

"Undoubtedly, executive governance is exclusive to the executive, as is legislation to legislatures and verdicts to courts. Exercise of executive authority by either judiciary or legislature is not in consonance with democracy and constitutional prescriptions," he said.



Jagdeep Dhankar

Mr. Dhankhar said that executive governance by the judiciary was "jurisprudentially and jurisdictionally" beyond constitutional sanctification.

"However, this aspect is engaging active attention of the people indicating in their perception umpteen such instances. This significant aspect calls for deep reflection at your level (Karan Singh), few like you, the intelligentsia and the academia. This would wholesomely contribute to the blossoming of democracy and nurturing constitutional spirit and essence. In all humility so I appeal," he added.

The Vice-President said the "influencing category" needs to be a "beacon for catalysing healthy enlightening national discourse to ensure deference to constitutional essence".

Mr. Dhankhar said that convergence of forces within and outside inimical to India was a matter of deep concern and alarming.

"So, also anti-national narratives, there is need for concerted endeavours to influence national mood so as to neutralise these pernicious forces."

Centre restores Railway recruitment policy

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Union government on Saturday restored the policy of recruiting railway officers through the Civil Services Examination (CSE) and the Engineering Services Examination (ESE) conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Ending four years of confusion in the appointment of railway officers and difficulties in finding suitable manpower for technical wings, the Indian Railways made a U-turn on its 2019 decision of recruiting officers to the Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) only through the CSE.

The move to restore the earlier system of recruitment comes weeks after Satish Kumar took charge as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board. The decision would also remove the cap on the intake of officers through the IRMS which was limited to 150 a year.

The Centre will now recruit railway officers through the Civil Service and Engineering Services examinations. FILE PHOTO

However, the Railways decided that the recruitment to various departments would be done under the banner of the IRMS through the CSE and the ESE. After the new recruitment policy came into existence, two batches of railway officers who got into service through the CSE were trained but have not been given a field posting yet.

Since recruitment through the ESE was dispensed with and engineering and non-engineering candidates competed for limited posts under the IRMS, the Railways found it difficult to find suitable officers for the technical categories such as Engineering, Mechanical, Electrical, and so on, resulting in more number of promotee or subordinate rank officers filling the vacancies.

On December 24, 2019, the government approved organisational restructuring of the Indian Railways by unification of eight Group-A services of the Railways into a Central Service called the IRMS.

Endorsing the major reforms, the Centre said the Railways had departments of Traffic, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Signal & Telecommunications, Stores, Personnel, and Accounts. These departments were vertically separated from top to bottom, each headed by a Secretary-level officer (Member) on the Railway Board.

The unification of services was recommended by various committees for reforming the Railways, including the Prakash Tandon Committee (1994), Rakesh Mohan Committee (2001), Sam Pitroda Committee (2012), and Bibek Debroy Committee (2015).

The unified Group-A Service called the IRMS was to enable the railways to recruit engineers or non-engineers as per need and offer equality of opportunity to both categories in career progression.

Rules revised

On Saturday, the Ministry of Telecommunications, being the nodal agency for the ESE, in a letter to the UPSC, said it had notified the ESE-2025 Rules on September 18, 2024, with the last date for submission of application being October 8, 2024.

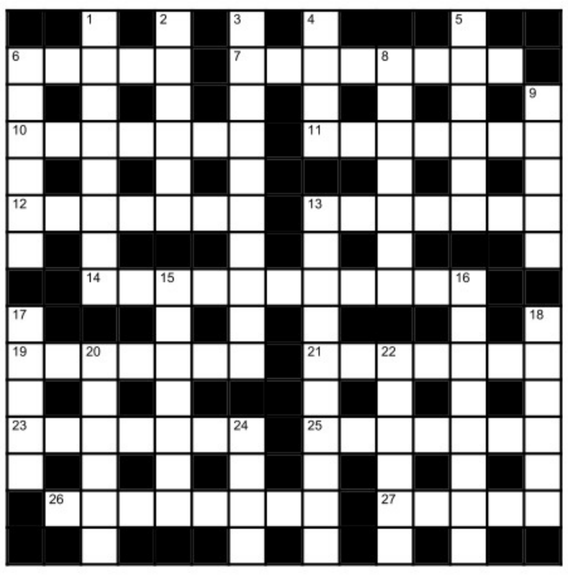
"It is requested that the participation of Ministry of Railways for recruitment of engineers in various disciplines through ESE-2025 to the IRMS may kindly be added to the existing notification by issuing an addendum to it. In order to provide ample opportunity to the candidates for applying, it is proposed that the last date of submission of application may be suitably extended and notified on the UPSC's website," the Secretary, Ministry of Telecommunications, said in the letter.

TH CROSSWORD + 14299

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

6 Count takes time to taper off (5)
7 Wild animal swallowed live - it's edible (4,4)
10 Perhaps Ray allows John back, isn't very bright (7)
11 Old Bob stuck in sand trap, that's the final course (7)
12 Saying "Arden's back" - getting a grip perhaps? (7)
13 Foreign? Time it takes China finally to copy (7)
14 Descriptions of old locations (11)
19 Promises extremely peaceful borders (7)
21 Call girl's introduction - sex for money (7)
23 She raised her voice, therefore got work and managed (7)
25 Could be indefinite, clear it anyway (7)
26 Criticism as help rejected by people... (8)
27 ...has to break promises (5)

Down

1 A protein used for relaxing muscles (8)
2 Run in a line - seems more interested in paintings (6)
3 St. Micheal's sculpture - they tried some elemental changes (10)
4 Surrounded by a rising cloud... (4)
5 ...hurricane - one picks up some lead from it (6)
6 One who smokes fish (6)
8 Way of the warrior - I do scrub on top (7)
9 Complain after losing millions, say (5)
13 Trainee crossing reservoir in Swiss town (10)
15 Show two workers (7)
16 History on human settlement shows wisdom... (8)
17 ...well, not even some seizure (5)
18 Two articles, two points - Capital! (6)
20 Close to three foreign trips, full of joy and enthusiasm (6)
22 Country could be in NATO (6)
24 God's resurrection seen in American Idol (4)

SUDOKU

					5	4	8	
		5				9		7
	4				2			6
	2				7			4
		6				1		
1			8				9	
9			7				4	
8		1				6		
	6	2	3					

No.SS6303 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	T	E	A	R	A	S	T	R	I	P	O	F	F	
B		M		A		M		E		E		A		A
R	E	A	L	M		E	N	D	E	A	R	I	N	G
E		N		P		L		B		C		R		A
A	L	A	B	A	S	T	E	R		E	L	E	M	I
K		T		G				E				S		N
I	C	E	P	I	C	K		A	M	E	N	T	I	A
N				N		I		S		L				N
G	A	R	A	G	E	D		T	R	E	A	T	E	D
P		E				N				V		R		A
O	N	A	I	R		A	W	A	K	E	N	I	N	G
I		L		A		P		N		N		E		A
N	I	G	H	T	S	P	O	T		S	U	S	H	I
T		A		E		E		R		E		O		N
	C	R	O	S	S	D	R	E	S	S	I	N	G	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	2	4	1	9	5	3	7
7	1	3	2	8	5	4	6	9
4	5	9	3	7	6	1	2	8
9	3	1	8	4	2	6	7	5
6	2	4	9	5	7	3	8	1
5	7	8	6	3	1	2	9	4
2	8	7	5	6	4	9	1	3
3	4	6	1	9	8	7	5	2
1	9	5	7	2	3	8	4	6

FAITH

Worship during Navarathri

The word "*Rathri*" in Sanskrit usually refers to the time after sunset. Sri Ramanujamji said in a discourse that it does not mean the same, and the word's etymology says that it is an opportunity to be free from karma. The human mind is in constant motion to do various activities, which can be recognised as karma. The time that gives us a small break from this is called *Rathri*.

One more meaning attributed is listening. Usually, people tell stories to make children sleep. Similarly, devotees are immersed deeply in God while hearing His divine deeds.

People need *jnana* (knowledge), and *bhakti* is essential for jnana. *Sravanam* (hearing or listening) is necessary for developing *bhakti*.

Tiruvalluvar says the most incredible wealth is listening to the discourses of the learned, which is the sublimest of all wealth (*selvathul selvam* – kural 411.) Sri Andal says that the cowherd clans always listened to the glory of Sri Krishna, which is everlasting wealth (*Neengadha Selvam*).

"*Navam*" denotes that which is new. Exponents say when people are not content or complacent and eager to hear more of God's stories, it is called *navam*. Navarathri refers to the nine days meant to worship God with His divine consort and listen to their great deeds.

The wondrous benefit is that the devotees celebrate one Goddess in each of their favourite forms. Lakshmi Ashtottaram says, "*Brahma Vishnu Sivathmikayai nama*: – the Goddess is the power of creation, protection and destruction. Navarathri is divided into three days for each of the three functions of the Goddess.

Gold, silver surge on U.S. rate cut

PRECIOUSMETALS

B.Krishnakumar

The uptrend in Comex gold witnessed in August, spilled over to September as well. The price of Comex gold scaled to a new all-time high and has settled well above the psychological $2,600-level.

The weakness in the U.S. Dollar along with the interest rate cut in the U.S. played a key role in pushing the precious metals to higher levels in September.

Geopolitical risks

The growing geopolitical risk played its part too in bolstering positive sentiment towards precious metals. As a result, both Comex gold and silver closed on a strong note last month. Comex gold gained 5.2% in September to settle at $2,659.4 an ounce.

Comex silver notched up an impressive 7.9% gain in September to end the month at $31.46 an ounce.

Firm local trends

Reflecting the firm trend in the global markets, precious metal prices closed on a strong note in the domestic markets too. MCX gold gained 4.9% in September and closed at ₹75,617 per 10-gram.

MCX silver, too, closed on a positive note gaining 6.37% in September to settle at ₹90,641 per kilogram.

As anticipated last month, the Comex gold price remained on an upward trajectory and also reached the then-mentioned target zone of $2,620-2,650. The medium-term outlook remains positive and Comex gold price could head to the next target zone of $2,720-2,750.

The positive outlook for Comex gold would be under threat only if the price closes below the support zone at $2,300-2,310. Until the price drops below $2,300, it would be reasonable to expect the price to reach the target of $2,750 and beyond.

While Comex gold is trading near its all-time highs, Comex silver is still stuck within the range of $26-32.5. It is however positive to note that the price is heading closer to the breakout level of $32.5 and a move above this level could impart momentum to the upside. Silver price could then head to the next target zone at $35-$35.5.

The positive outlook for Comex silver would be invalidated on a fall below $28.

In line with last month's expectations, MCX gold price moved higher and also reached the then mentioned target of ₹73,900-74,500. The short-term outlook for MCX Gold is positive and the price could move higher to the next target zone of ₹77,300-77,800. A fall below ₹75,000 would invalidate the short-term positive outlook.

Similar to MCX Gold, MCX silver too exhibited strength in September. The price also reached the target zone of ₹89,700-91,200 mentioned last month. The short-term outlook for silver remains positive and the price could head to the next target zone at ₹95,500-₹96,500. This view would be invalidated on a fall below ₹88,000.

To summarise, the short-term outlook for precious metals remains positive until the downside levels mentioned above are invalidated.

(The author is a Chennai based analyst / trader. The views and opinion featured in this column is based on the analysis of short-term price movement in gold and silver futures at COMEX & Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice.)

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Interest rates set to ease; What does it mean for you?

Globally, central banks are reducing interest rates; though the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is yet to commit, there are widespread expectations of interest rates easing going forward

EASY ON THE POCKET

Joydeep Sen

> Our currency exchange rate is relatively stable. The timing of initiating interest rate cuts depends on the RBI. It is likely the reduction may happen in December

> Net impact of interest rate movements depends on which side you are. If you are a borrower, lower rates help. If you are a saver or depositor, they do not.

There are multiple fundamental reasons for easing of interest rates going forward. Our inflation is lower than earlier. Globally, central banks like the U.S. Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, are reducing interest rates. Our currency exchange rate is relatively stable. The timing of initiating rate cuts depends on the RBI; a cut may likely happen in December.

Impact on loan rates

Your floating rate loans from banks are usually benchmarked to an external variable. This variable could be the repo rate decided by the RBI, or the yield level on a 3-month or a 6-month Treasury Bill. Basically, floating rate loans are benchmarked to a parameter not under the bank's control. The implication is, as and when the relevant variable e.g. RBI repo rate rises or slides, the transmission to loan rates happen immediately.

Assuming the RBI cuts repo rate, floating-rate loans are going to get cheaper. Then, you have two options. One, to keep EMI amount same and reduce loan tenure. Two, to reduce the EMI amount and keep the tenure same. The better option is to keep the EMI same and reduce the tenure. The reason is, the longer the tenure of loan, the more interest you end up paying. Though reduction of the EMI amount psychologically seems to be better and easier on cash flows, you are better off finishing it off earlier.

For fresh loans, low floating rates seem attractive and you sign up for a EMI as per your payment capacity. To recall, during or just after the COVID phase, when interest rates were very low, floating interest rates for housing loans had gone down to as low as 6.50%.

Your EMI, worked at that rate, comes to a certain amount. However, your loan tenure is long, say 10 years or 15 years. Interest rates move in cycles. Since then, rates have risen and now we are talking of interes-rate cuts.

The point is, when you are initiating a loan, rates may be low. Over the medium to long term, floating rates would climb. Then, you would have to either raise the EMI or increase the tenure of loan. Similarly, in December or early next year, if rates slide, you should commit to it as per your capacity, assuming it may climb. When floating housing loan rates were as low as 6.5%, banks were not even talking of fixed rate loans. Interest rates on such loans were very high and the differential with floating rate loans was stark. The reason was banks were aware that the interest rate cycle could turn and they had to protect margins.

Impact on deposit rates

As and when RBI signals lower rates by reducing repo rate, currently at 6.5%, deposit rates would come down. To what extent the rates slide is banks' commercial decision but would be somewhere around the extent of reduction of the repo rate. If the RBI reduces repo rate by say 0.5% or 0.75%, reduction in deposit rates would be somewhere around that. Obviously, the deposit rates currently available are attractive from this perspective.

Other deposits

There are other interest-bearing instruments e.g. Small Savings (popularly known as Post Office Schemes), RBI Floating Rate Savings Bonds, certain government-sponsored retirement schemes, deposits taken by corporates / NBFCs, government bonds, corporate bonds, etc. The movement of interest rates in all these would be in a similar direction with differences in extent and timing. In any deposit or bond, you are better off locking in now and you would gain in terms of 'opportunity cost', i.e. going forward, rates would be lower.

Mutual funds

Mutual funds are market-related investments and there is no commitment like in a bank deposit. In debt MFs, when interest rates slide, returns would be higher. Interest rates and bond prices move inversely. There is an NAV in MFs announced every day, calculated at market prices. However, the market works in anticipation of forthcoming moves, unlike deposit or loan rates, that react to RBI moves. Part of rate easing has already happened. The yield on the benchmark 10-year government bond has eased from 7.38% about a year ago to about 6.75% now.

Conclusion

The net impact of interest rate movements depends on which side you are. If you are a borrower, lower interest rates help. If you are a saver/depositor, they do not. If you are a saver, there is only one indirect positive spin-off. The RBI would reduce interest rates only when inflation is low. In that sense, the real (inflation adjusted) return is not impacted adversely.

(The writer is a corporate trainer (financial markets) and author)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.00	7.25	7.50	7.25
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.20	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.25	6.00	6.75	6.25
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	8.25	7.25
NorthEast Small Finance Bank	9.00	7.00	9.00	6.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.65	6.85	8.60	8.25
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	7.20	7.20
Unity Small Finance Bank	9.00	7.85	8.15	8.15
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.50	7.75
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.25	6.70	7.10	7.00
Bandhan Bank	8.05	8.05	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.25
CSB Bank	7.75	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	8.05	7.10	7.55	7.40
Federal Bank	7.40	6.80	7.00	6.60
HDFC Bank	7.40	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.25	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.75	6.50	7.00	6.75
IndusInd Bank	7.99	7.75	7.25	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.00	7.00	6.75	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.60	7.00	7.00	7.00
Karnataka Bank	7.50	7.35	6.50	6.50
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.40	7.10	7.00	6.20
RBL Bank	8.10	7.50	7.50	7.10
SBM Bank India	8.10	7.05	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.25	6.70	6.70	6.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.50
YES Bank	8.00	7.25	7.25	7.25
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.30	6.85	7.15	6.50
Bank of India	7.30	6.80	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.25	6.75	6.50	6.50
Canara Bank	7.25	6.85	6.80	6.70
Central Bank of India	7.45	6.85	6.75	6.50
Indian Bank	7.25	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.30	7.10	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.80	7.00	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.30	6.30	6.00	6.00
State Bank of India	7.25	6.80	6.75	6.50
Union Bank of India	7.40	6.80	6.70	6.50

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.50-9.85	8.50-9.85	8.50-9.85
Bank of Baroda	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.35-10.75	8.35-10.90	8.35-10.90
Punjab National Bank	8.45-10.25	8.40-10.15	8.40-10.15
Bank of India	8.40-10.85	8.40-10.85	8.40-10.85
Canara Bank	8.50-11.25	8.45-11.25	8.40-11.15
UCO Bank	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30
Bank of Maharashtra	8.35-11.15	8.35-11.15	8.35-11.15
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00
Indian Overseas Bank	8.40-10.60	8.40-10.60	8.40-10.60
Central Bank of India	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.75 *	8.75 *	8.75 *
ICICI Bank	8.75 *	8.75 *	8.75 *
Axis Bank	8.75-13.30	8.75-13.30	8.75-9.65
HSBC Bank	8.50 *	8.50 *	8.50 *
South Indian Bank	8.70-11.70	8.70-11.70	8.70-11.70
Karur Vysya Bank	9.00-11.05	9.00-11.05	9.00-11.05
Karnataka Bank	8.50-10.62	8.50-10.62	8.50-10.62
Federal Bank	8.80 *	8.80 *	8.80 *
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.60-9.95	8.60-9.95	8.60-9.95
Bandhan Bank	9.16-15.00	9.16-13.33	9.16-13.33
CSB Bank	10.49-12.34	10.49-12.34	10.49-12.34
HDFC Bank Ltd.	8.75 *	8.75 *	8.75 *
City Union Bank	8.45-9.70	8.70-10.20	8.95-10.70
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.50-10.35	8.50-10.55	8.50-10.75
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.50 *	8.50 *	8.50 *
Tata Capital	8.75 *	8.75 *	8.75 *
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-14.50	8.50-11.45
GIC Housing Finance	8.80 *	8.80 *	8.80 *
SMFG India Home Finance	10.00 *	10.00 *	10.00 *
Sammaan Capital	8.75 *	8.75 *	8.75 *
Aditya Birla Capital	8.60 *	8.60 *	8.60 *
ICICI Home Finance	9.10 *	9.10 *	9.10 *
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55 *	8.55 *	8.55 *

*Onwards Rates as on October 1 Source:Paisabazaar.com

RCA versus lumpsum investing

THINKINVESTOR

It is better to remove the element of market timing when you invest your lumpsum amount to achieve your life goals; Rupee Cost Averaging is, therefore, behaviourally optimal

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Most of you set up systematic investment plans (SIPs) from post-tax monthly income. But what if you have lumpsum money to invest? This could be annual bonus, a windfall gain, or proceeds from selling a capital asset such as land. Here, we compare lumpsum investing and rupee-cost averaging (RCA) and discuss the associated behavioural biases.

Moderating regret

Suppose you have lumpsum money of ₹10 lakh and decide to invest in equity. You are likely to invest in multiple exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and equity funds. This supposed diversification is a behavioural way to moderate future regret. What if you invest in a single fund and it performs poorly? If you identify five funds to invest in, it is highly likely that will split the ₹10 lakh evenly among the five. But you are still exposed to future regret. What if the stock market declines a week after you make the investments? You could have been allotted more units had you delayed your investments!

It is for this reason splitting your lumpsum money and investing across several months is behaviourally optimal. This process is called RCA because your objective is to average purchase (cost) price across time. Note, there is a subtle difference between RCA and SIP, though both involve systematic investing. RCA involves a choice between lumpsum investing and spreading investments across time to average your costs. SIP typically involves investing systematically from post-tax monthly income. You are unlikely to invest in multiple funds if you do RCA, as you remove market timing from the investment decision. But RCA exposes you to the temptation to spend today than invest for future (present bias). RCA is typically set up to invest your lumpsum amount over 6-8 months. You may be tempted to spend the money before the next investment date!

Conclusion

It is better to remove the element of market timing when you invest lumpsum amount to achieve your life goals. RCA is, therefore, behaviourally optimal. To avoid the temptation to spend the money, you can operate a separate savings account (call it a master investment account) to manage all your investment decisions. All lumpsum moneys along with your monthly savings can be transferred to this master account from where SIPs on equity funds, ETFs and recurring deposits, and RCA can be set up.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

BEIRUT

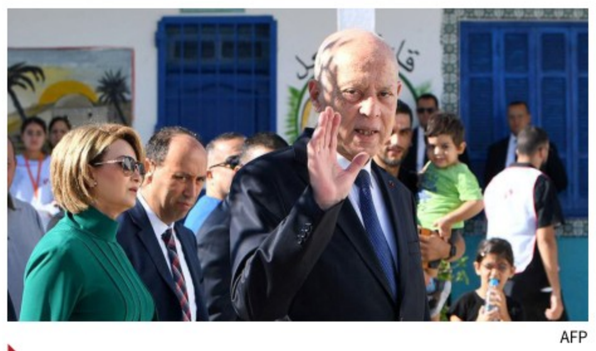
Air strikes in Lebanon violated humanitarian law: UN official

AFP

The United Nations' refugee chief, Filippo Grandi, said on Sunday that air strikes in Lebanon had violated international humanitarian law by hitting civilian infrastructure and killing civilians. He was in Lebanon as it struggles to cope with the displacement of more than 1.2 million people after Israeli attacks. REUTERS

TUNIS

Tunisians vote with Kais Saied set to be re-elected President



AFP

Tunisians voted in a presidential election largely expected to see incumbent Kais Saied secure another five years in office while his main critics — including one contender — are behind bars. Three years after Saied staged a sweeping power grab, the election is seen as a closing chapter in Tunisia's short tryst with democracy. AFP

BEIJING

China's Xi vows to 'deepen cooperation' with N. Korea's Kim

AP

Chinese President Xi Jinping told his North Korean counterpart Kim Jong-un that Beijing hoped to "deepen friendly... cooperation" with Pyongyang, as the two leaders exchanged messages to mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on Sunday. AFP

WASHINGTON DC

Chinese hackers breached U.S. court wiretap systems: report

REUTERS

Chinese hackers accessed the networks of U.S. broadband providers and obtained information from systems that the government uses for court-authorised wiretapping, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. Verizon Communications, AT&T and Lumen Technologies are among the companies whose networks were breached. REUTERS

Flights at some Iran airports suspended

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's aviation body on Sunday announced the cancellation of flights at some of the country's airports, citing "operational restrictions", state media reported as Israel vows to retaliate for an Iranian missile strike.

Because of those restrictions, "the flights at some airports of the country will be cancelled from 21:00 tonight (1730 GMT), Sunday, October 6, until 6:00 am tomorrow, October 7".

Iran on Tuesday launched 200 missiles on Israel, in what it said was retaliation for the killing of Tehran-aligned militant leaders in the region, along with a general in Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

'Iran's Quds Force chief out of contact since Beirut strikes'

Two Tehran officials say Esmail Qaani was in Lebanon, where Israel had concentrated its attacks; the news comes in the wake of reports about missing senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine

Reuters

Iran's Quds Force commander Esmail Qaani, who travelled to Lebanon after the killing last month of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli airstrike, has not been heard from since strikes on Beirut late last week, two senior Iranian security officials told *Reuters*.

One of the officials said Mr. Qaani was in Beirut's southern suburbs, known as the Dahiyeh, during a strike on Thursday that was reported to have targeted senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine but the official said he was not meeting Safieddine.

Big fish: Iran has not been able to contact Esmail Qaani (in picture) since the strike against Hezbollah's Hashem Safieddine. REUTERS

The official said Iran and Hezbollah had not been able to contact Mr. Qaani since then.

Israel has been hitting multiple targets in Dahiyeh as it pursues a campaign against the Iran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah.

The second official also said Mr. Qaani had travelled to Lebanon after the killing of Nasrallah and the Iranian authorities had not been able to contact him since the strike against Safieddine, who was widely expected to be the next Hezbollah chief.

Hezbollah has made no comment so far on Safieddine.

Overseas arm

The Quds Force, the overseas arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, oversees dealings with militias allied with Tehran across West Asia, such as Hezbollah.

Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander Brigadier General Abbas Nilforoushan was killed along with Nasrallah in his bunker when the area was hit on September 27 by Israeli bombs.

26 dead as Israel attacks a Gaza mosque-turned-shelter

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Sunday an Israeli strike on a mosque-turned-shelter in central Deir al-Balah killed 26 people, while Israel's military said it had targeted Hamas militants.

"The number of martyrs brought to hospitals as a result of the occupation's targeting of displaced people in the Ibn Rushd school and Al Aqsa Martyrs mosque reached 26, with several more wounded," the Health Ministry said in a statement.

The Gaza civil defence agency had earlier said 21 people had been killed in the pre-dawn strike in central Gaza's Deir El-Balah area.

The Israeli military said in a statement that it had "conducted a precise strike on Hamas terrorists who were operating within a command and control centre" at the mosque. It did not give any specific toll.

No respite: A mosque-turned-shelter in Deir al-Balah that was damaged in an Israeli strike on early Sunday morning. AFP

Meanwhile, Gaza's civil defence agency said on Sunday that Israeli air strikes in the Jabaliya area in the north of the territory killed at least 17 people, including nine children.

"There are 17 martyrs, including nine children, in Israeli air strikes in Jabaliya," civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said. Israeli forces have encircled Jabaliya in response to indications that Hamas was rebuilding there.

Never quit, says Trump at the site of failed assassination bid

Agence France-Presse
BUTLER

Donald Trump defiantly returned on Saturday to the site of a campaign rally where an assassin's bullet almost killed him in July, questioning whether his opponents were responsible and declaring he would "never quit."

"Exactly 12 weeks ago this evening, on this very ground, a cold-blooded assassin aimed to silence me," the Republican candidate told tens of thousands of supporters after taking the stage behind bullet-proof glass.

Mr. Trump vowed he would "never quit... never bend... never break" to cheers of "fight, fight, fight" from the crowd.

Mr. Trump's much-hyped return to Butler, Pennsylvania, came exactly one month before the November 5 presidential election, the outcome of which U.S. President Joe Biden suggested on Friday might not be peaceful.

Same feather: Elon Musk speaks as Donald Trump looks on during a rally in Butler in Pennsylvania on Saturday. REUTERS

Mr. Trump lashed out at his political opponents, calling them the "enemy within" who had pushed to indict him and "who knows, maybe even tried to kill me."

Tighter security

Security was tighter than Mr. Trump's July rally, with sniper squads atop surrounding buildings, and a surveillance drone deployed overhead.

Billionaire Elon Musk joined Mr. Trump on stage, stressing the tight margins that will likely decide the election in battleground States like Pennsylvania and encouraging voter registration.

Mr. Trump "must win to preserve democracy in America," Mr. Musk said, echoing the alarmist messaging he frequently pushes to his 200 million followers on his X platform.

Russian forces hit Ukraine with drones and missiles

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian forces attacked Ukraine overnight with 87 Shahed drones and four different types of missiles, officials said on Sunday.

A 49-year-old man was killed in the Kharkiv region after his car was hit by a drone. A gas pipeline was also damaged and a warehouse set alight in the city of Odesa.

Ukraine's air force said in a statement that air defences had destroyed 56 of the 87 drones and two missiles over 14 Ukrainian regions, including the capital, Kyiv.

The barrage comes a day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that he will present his "victory plan" at the October 12 meeting of the Ramstein group of nations that supplies arms to Ukraine.

Pakistan government cites 'national security', bans ethnic Pashtun party

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government on Sunday banned the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), a group which fights for the rights of ethnic Pashtuns, citing it as a threat to national security.

"The federal government having reasons to believe that the PTM is engaged in certain activities prejudicial to peace and security of the country [...] is pleased to list the PTM in the First Schedule as a proscribed organisation," the Ministry of Interior said.

The group that is highly critical of the Army is active in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The group of ethnic Pushtu-speaking activists, which is highly critical of the Army, is active in the tribal region of the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Led by Manzoor Pashteen, the group had been active for some years, with its leadership blaming the armed forces for the problems faced by the tribal region along the Afghan border.

The PTM began as the Mahsud Tahafuz Movement in May 2014 when a group of students set it up as an initiative to remove landmines from Waziristan and other parts of the tribal region.

The group rose to prominence in January 2018 after rebranding itself as the PTM following the popularity it got for seeking justice for Naqeebullah Mehsud, a fellow Pashtun who was killed in Karachi by police allegedly in a fake encounter.

Afghan connections

Pakistan authorities have alleged that the group was playing in the hands of anti-state elements operating from within and abroad, especially in Afghanistan. However, the PTM always rejected such allegations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client intends to acquire long term leasehold rights in the property described in Schedule below from Marudhar Projects Pvt. Ltd., who has represented that it is the sole and absolute owner in possession; that Schedule Property is free from any encumbrance/s, charge/s, claim/s, demand/s or litigation/s; that the building forming part of Schedule Property is constructed in compliance with all applicable laws. Person/s claiming any right, title or interest in or upon the Schedule Property and / or having any objection to the lease transaction, may lodge their objection/s supported by documents with the undersigned within Fifteen (15) days from publication of this notice. If no objection/s is/are received within said period, my client will go ahead with the transaction deeming that there is / are no claim/s or objection/s.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of commercial Site admeasuring 4083.35 Sq.mtrs. formed as per Single Site Layout approved by Bengaluru Development Authority vide Letter No.BDA/Nayosa/PL-69/08/277/2008-09 dated 12/8/2008 in Property No. 76 situated in Ward No.150 of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike corresponding to Sy.No.26/7 (Old Sy.No.26/2) measuring 1 acre 6 guntas of Doddakannahalli village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru, having the following boundaries:

East by: Sy.No.26/1, **West by:** Sy.No.26/8, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Boundary of Chikkakannahalli, together with entire building comprising Basement, Ground, six upper floors having an area of 16126.29 Sq.mtrs together with terrace and all open space/ Car Parks.

Smita Singh, Advocate, #827, 12th Main, IV Block, HBR Layout, Bengaluru 560 043, Email: smitasinghadvocate@gmail.com
Place: Bengaluru, Dt. 06/10/2024

Office of the Mission Director,
National Livelihood Mission Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Dept.,
4, 2nd Floor, MYSUGAR Building, J.C. Road, Near Town Hall,
Bengaluru-560002. email: nrlmkarnataka@gmail.com

No.: KSRLPS/LS/MF/2/2024-LS Date: 05-10-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sanjeevini KSRLPS is hiring Technical Support Agency for handholding support to the project "Fishery Value Chain Development through the Promotion of Producer Enterprise in Uttara Kannada District of Karnataka. The RFP was published through "e-Procurement Portal" on 05.10.2024. Interested bidders can participate by logging to the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and the last date for submition of RFP is **16.10.2024 before 5:00 PM.** Kindly refer to the tender document for the schedule and any information vide Tender Reference No: KSRLPS/2024-25/SE0026/CALL-2.

Sd/-
Additional Mission Director
Sanjeevini-KSRLPS
Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/2371/AKAR/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General Public that my client **Smt.Dyavamma D/o Hanumaiah, W/o. Rajashekhar,** Residing at Athini, Hassan, Karnataka - 573102 have lost the original Sale Deed documents in respect to **Site. No.35** of **Chikkathoguru Village, Beguru Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore** measuring **1200 Sq.feet** The details of the same are as follows:

Sale deed registered as Document No.RRR-1-03034-2012-13 is lost in between 5.9.2024 to 06.9.2024 in Hassan, to that effect My client lodged a complaint before Karnataka State Police in online dated 3.10.2024 vide lost Report bearing No.1271313/2024. But till date my client unable to secure the said documents.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned documents, they shall return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **07 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

If anyone found the aforesaid original documents, kindly handover the same either to my client or the undersigned.

(S. Kiran) Advocate,
M/s. Varaha Law Chamber
No.67/1, 1st Floor, East Anjaneya Temple Road,
Gandhi Bazaar, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004.

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU · thehindu businessline · FRONTLINE · SPORTSTAR · The Hindu Young World · THE HINDU

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ಸಂ:KMCRI/SUP(5)/EQP/Tender-ENT-25/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:03.10.2024
ಸಂ:KMCRI/SUP(5)/EQP/Re-Tender-121/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:03.10.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿಯ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಕ್ಕಳ ವಿಭಾಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಿವಿ, ಮೂಗು ಮತ್ತು ಗಂಟಲು ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಉಪಕರಣ ಪೂರೈಸುವದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರಾದ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು/ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಏಜೆಂಟ್/ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಪೂರೈಸುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999–2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1	Tenders may be uploaded from	07-10-2024
2	Last Date for Tender Queries (will be considered in writing letter pad)	14-10-2024
3	Pre -bid Meeting	15-10-2024
4	Last date for uploading the tenders	28-10-2024 before 5-00 PM

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು, ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ, ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ktpp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಆರ್.ಆಯ್ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಈ ಕಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪುವ, ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ, ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ :08359–221865
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ನಂ. : 08359–221235
e-mail:ltstaff_dudc_koppal@yahoo.com

ಸಂ.ಕಂ.ಡಿ.ಯು.ಡಿ.ಸಿ(ಕೊ)/ಅ.ನ.ಹಂ–4/ನ.ಗಂ./2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.10.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

The Executive engineer Koppal District, Koppal invites temders from contractor who are eligible for Chief Minister Amruth Nagarothana (Municipality) phase - 4 Scheme, in CMC Gangavati limit Koppal District of Karnataka State as per price schedule based in E-procurement Portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sl.No	Brief Descriptions	Approximate Value of work (Rs. in Lakh)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Period Of Completion (Months)
01	TENDER INDENT NO. DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT28756	2434.91	20.63	18

Available of Tender forms (Through Online)	03.10.2024 @ 9.00am
Tender pre-bid meeting date	22.10.2024 @ 11.00am
Last Date of submission tender	04.11.2024@ 5.30pm
Date of Opening Tenders (Technical Bid)	06.11.2024@11.00am

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
District Urban Development Cell
Koppal

PRIORITY NO. 1

Winning was more important than Net Run Rate, says Arundhati

AFP

Seamer Arundhati Reddy felt that the win was more important than the Net Run Rate in the match against Pakistan. "We understand that NRR is important but winning was more important. The wicket was slow and the batters could not accelerate. We've discussed NRR and will look to improve it in the coming games," she said.

LAPSES, BUT...

Fielding is a work in progress and we will get there soon: Arundhati

ANI

Arundhati Reddy registered her career-best figures (three for 19) in T20s, but could have returned with a five-for had Asha Sobhana not dropped two catches off her bowling. "We've been working hard on our fielding. There were a few lapses but as long as the team wins, we're happy. It's a work in progress and we'll get there soon."

NO BOUNDARY

A quiet PowerPlay for India as Pakistan bowlers keep it tight

AFP

India did not hit a single boundary in the PowerPlay against Pakistan in Dubai on Sunday. A pace-spin combination and alert fielding did not allow India to shift gears as it scored just 25 for one. The other instance of India failing to find the boundary in the first six was against the same opponent in the 2016 edition.

SMILING AGAIN

West Indies eases past Scotland, gets campaign back on track

GETTY IMAGES

West Indies beat Scotland by six wickets in a women's World Cup Group B match in Dubai on Sunday.
The scores: Scotland 99/8 in 20 overs (Afy Fletcher 3/22) lost to West Indies 101/4 in 11.4 overs (Qiana Joseph 31, Olivia Bell 2/18); **PoM:** Chinelle Henry (4-2-10-1 & 18 n.o.).

Women in Blue make heavy weather of modest target

Arundhati's three-wicket haul helps restrict Pakistan to 105 before India crosses the finish line with seven balls to spare; skipper Harmanpreet retires hurt after scoring a 24-ball 29

WOMEN'S T20 WC

Lavanya L
DUBAI

A nearly packed house under a scorching afternoon sun, music making the ground shake at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, immaculately coordinated Mexican waves punctuating the action on the field every now and then – the India-Pakistan group-stage clash in the Women's T20 World Cup on Sunday was a spectator's dream.

It's amusing then that the incredible organisation outside the green was paired with stunning shiftiness on it.

India huffed and puffed to a six-wicket win with seven balls to spare against a spirited Pakistan side to steady its campaign in the 100th T20I hosted in this venue.

The path to a successful chase of just 106 was ridden with thorns on a slow wicket that made acceleration challenging.

After losing Smriti Mandhana early to left-arm spinner Sadia Iqbal, India tweaked its batting order once more with Jemimah Rodrigues bumped to one drop.

Despite fielding in the sunniest part of the field for most of the first innings, Jemimah tried to breathe life into the scoring rate.

But the wicket progressively got lower and slower, with Pakistan's spinners also refusing to give India an inch.

At the other end, Shafali Verma, who was a bit sluggish between the wickets, opted to let her willow do the heavy lifting.

Pakistan skipper Fatima Sana had other plans. She removed Jemimah and Richa Ghosh off consecutive deliveries in the 16th over to turn up the heat on the Indian dugout.

Harmanpreet Kaur and Deepti Sharma got India close before a bizarre stretch to avoid a stumping saw the India captain retiring hurt with just two runs left to win.

Sajana Sajeevan – in the line-up for Pooja Vastrakar who is carrying a niggle – who is no stranger to finishing games in a ball, gave India its first points of the tournament with a four through mid-off.

Earlier, Sana won the toss and put her side in to bat.

Pakistan's start was cautious, understandable given India's propensity to feed off the energy of one dismissal to trigger another.

Renuka Singh took out Gull Feroza in the first over while scoring pressure got the better of Sidra Amin in the fifth with Deepti Sharma cleaning her up.

Arundhati Reddy's dubious luck with dropped catches continued as Asha Sobhana dropped Muneeba Ali - a sitter at short fine leg in the seventh over - and Sana at short third man in the 13th over.

Coach Amol Muzumdar was seen shrugging in disappointment but Asha found consolation coming her way from her teammates.

Arundhati still finished as the pick of the Indian bowling pack with three scalps – Omaima Sohail, Aliya Riaz and Nida Dar – giving away just 19 runs.

Despite her short stay at the crease, Sana looked most at ease, effortless with her placement and running between the wickets. Barring her, Pakistan struggled to break free from India's spin web spun by Shreyanka Patil, Asha and Deepti.

India will rest easy with a win in the bag but the oxygen masks are not off just yet.

You miss, I hit! Arundhati operated smartly on a slow track, keeping the Pakistan batters on a leash. Nida's attempt to free her arms ended disastrously. AFP

> Lovely crowd today. Felt a very good vibe getting into the ground. A lot of Indians were supporting and cheering for us and we hope they keep showing up for us
> ARUNDHATI

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN

Muneeba Ali st. Richa b Shreyanka 17 *(26b, 2x4)*, Gull Feroza b Renuka 0 *(4b)*, Sidra Amin b Deepti 8 *(11b, 1x4)*, Omaima Sohail c Shafali b Arundhati 3 *(6b)*, Nida Dar b Arundhati 28 *(34b, 1x4)*, Aliya Riaz lbw b Arundhati 4 *(9b)*, Fatima Sana c Richa b Sobhana 13 *(8b, 2x4)*, Tuba Hassan c Shafali b Shreyanka 0 *(3b)*, Syeda Aroob Shah (not out) 14 *(17b, 1x4)*, Nashra Sandhu (not out) 6 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-2, lb-1, w-9): 12; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 105.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Feroza, 0.6 overs), 2-25 (Sidra, 4.5), 3-33 (Omaima, 6.5), 4-41 (Muneeba, 9.3), 5-52 (Aliya, 12.1), 6-70 (Sana, 13.6), 7-71 (Tuba, 14.5), 8-99 (Nida, 19.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Renuka 4-0-23-1, Deepti 4-0-24-1, Arundhati 4-0-19-3, Shreyanka 4-1-12-2, Sobhana 4-0-24-1.

INDIA

Shafali Verma c Aliya b Omaima 32 *(35b, 3x4)*, Smriti Mandhana c Tuba b Sadia 7 *(16b)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Muneeba b Sana 23 *(28b)*, Harmanpreet Kaur retd. hurt 29 *(24b, 1x4)*, Richa Ghosh c Muneeba b Sana 0 *(1b)*, Deepti Sharma (not out) 7 *(8b)*, Sajana Sajeevan (not out) 4 *(1b, 1x4)*; Extras (w-6): 6; Total (for four wkts. in 18.5 overs): 108.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-18 (Smriti, 4.3), 2-61 (Shafali, 11.5), 3-80 (Jemimah, 15.2), 4-80 (Richa, 15.3).

PAKISTAN BOWLING

Sana 4-0-23-2, Sadia 4-0-23-1, Nida 1.5-0-10-0, Omaima 3-0-17-1, Nashra 4-0-21-0, Tuba 2-0-14-0.

Toss: Pakistan.
PoM: Arundhati.
India won by six wickets with seven balls to spare.
India's next match: Oct. 9 vs Sri Lanka, Dubai (7.30 p.m. IST).

Arshdeep, Hardik steal the show as India draws first blood

BANGLADESH IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal
GWALIOR

India barely broke a sweat in a thumping seven-wicket win over Bangladesh in the first T20I here on Sunday. The home team stayed on top right through the outing, first pinning Bangladesh down to 127 before knocking it off with ease.

It was a memorable night for Varun Chakaravarthy, who made his comeback to the national side after three years. The finger spinner came to the party with three wickets, justifying his inclusion in the eleven ahead of leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi.

The packed house at the Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Stadium, hosting its first international match, was treated to fireworks in the chase. Sanju Samson (29, 19b, 6x4), Suryakumar Yadav (29, 14b, 2x4, 3x6) and Hardik Pandya (39 n.o., 5x4, 2x6) wreaked havoc to power India to the target in just 11.5 overs. Hardik got the loudest cheers, finishing the match in style with a huge six over midwicket.

Hardik was entertainment-personified, executing a no-look ramp shot to Taskin Ahmed while staring straight back at the bowler.

Debutant Nitish Kumar Reddy enjoyed the show from the other end, finishing unbeaten on 16.

On a slow wicket, Bangladesh took a cautious approach and paid the price. The visitor was content to nudge it around, allowing the Indian bowlers to pile on the pressure.

The anchor was dropped as early as the first over, when Litton Das skied Arshdeep Singh without purpose.

In his next over, a consistent Arshdeep got Parvez Hossain Emon to edge it back onto the stumps.

Varun entered the attack in the fifth over, and was unlucky to see Nitish drop a catch in the deep. It turned out to be a minor blip, as Varun returned to prise out Towhid Hridoy with a short ball. The Tamil Nadu cricketer then turned to his bag of tricks, slanting one between bat and pad to end Jaker Ali's stay. For good measure, Varun added a third victim in Rishad Hossain with another short ball.

All eyes turned to Mayank Yadav, who was making his international debut. Mayank, who lit up IPL 2024 with his searing pace, started with a maiden. He hit the right lengths through his four overs, but could not crank up the pace.

Mayank did not breach the 150 kmph mark – markedly slower than his IPL thunderbolts.

It seemed like the Bangladesh batters faced Mayank on reputation. The pacer took full advantage to record neat figures of one for 21.

Nitish was not as successful with the ball. His medium pace and variations proved to be easy pickings, prompting the skipper to keep him down to two overs.

Washington Sundar accounted for captain Najmul Hossain Shanto, who jabbed a good length delivery back to the bowler. Arshdeep and Hardik expertly handled the death overs.

The clinical Indians were too good on all counts.

Breaking through, breaking free: Arshdeep struck early to restrict Bangladesh to 127 before the Indian batters took charge. Hardik powered the team home in just 11.5 overs, finishing the match in style with a six. EMMANUAL YOGINI

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH

Parvez Hossain Emon b Arshdeep 8 *(9b, 1x6)*, Litton Das c Rinku b Arshdeep 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Najmul Hossain Shanto c & b Washington 27 *(25b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Towhid Hridoy c Hardik b Varun 12 *(18b, 2x4)*, Mahmudullah c Washington b Mayank 1 *(2b)*, Jaker Ali b Varun 8 *(6b, 1x6)*, Mehidy Hasan Miraz (not out) 35 *(32b, 3x4)*, Rishad Hossain c Hardik b Varun 11 *(5b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Taskin Ahmed run out 12 *(13b, 1x4)*, Shoriful Islam b Hardik 0 *(2b)*, Mustafizur Rahman b Arshdeep 1 *(5b)*; Extras (lb-6, w-2): 8; Total (in 19.5 overs): 127.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-5 (Litton, 0.5 overs), 2-14 (Parvez, 2.1), 3-40 (Hridoy, 6.4), 4-43 (Mahmudullah, 7.2), 5-57 (Jaker, 9.2), 6-75 (Shanto, 11.6), 7-93 (Rishad, 13.5), 8-116 (Taskin, 17.2), 9-117 (Shoriful, 17.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Arshdeep 3.5-0-14-3, Hardik 4-0-26-1, Varun 4-0-31-3, Mayank 4-1-21-1, Nitish 2-0-17-0, Washington 2-0-12-1.

INDIA

Sanju Samson c Rishad b Miraz 29 *(19b, 6x4)*, Abhishek Sharma run out 16 *(7b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Jaker b Mustafizur 29 *(14b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Nitish Kumar Reddy (not out) 16 *(15b, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya (not out) 39 *(16b, 5x4, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-2, w-1): 3; Total (for three wkts. in 11.5 overs): 132.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-25 (Abhishek, 1.6), 2-65 (Suryakumar, 5.3), 3-80 (Samson, 7.5).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Shoriful 2-0-17-0, Taskin 2.5-0-44-0, Mustafizur 3-0-36-1, Rishad 3-0-26-0, Miraz 1-0-7-1.

Toss: India; **PoM:** Arshdeep.
India won by seven wickets with 49 balls remaining to lead three-match series 1-0.

Carlsen outwits Giri, but Knights rule

GCL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LONDON

"Magnus, Magnus," they screamed. "Giri, Giri," shouted the rest.

It wasn't the most usual of sights you would see ahead of a game of chess. Normally there would be pin-drop silence. But, the Tech Mahindra Global Chess League is not the usual chess tournament.

The crowd at Friends Hall was excited as Magnus Carlsen and Anish Giri, two of the most popular stars in chess, walked to take their seats for the Icon board clash in the match between Alpine SG Pipers and PBG Alaskan Knights. There was an anti-climactic end to the game, though, as Giri blundered a piece and Carlsen won in just 22 moves.

Giri's teammates, however, rose to the occasion again. Nodirbek Abdusattorov defeated R. Praggnanandhaa and Tan Zhongyi beat Hou Yifan in a contest between two former World champions from China.

The game between Nihal Sarin and Daniel Dardha produced drama, and controversy, too. Nihal was clearly winning, but he had much less time. He claimed a draw, which was allowed. That meant Knights won 9-7, their fifth victory in as many matches. SG Pipers lodged an appeal, a decision on which hadn't been taken at the time of filing this report.

Knights, with 15 match points, retained their lead at the halfway mark.

The results: American Gambits bt Ganges Grandmasters 10-4
(Hikaru Nakamura bt Viswanathan Anand; Jan-Krzysztof Duda drew with Arjun Erigaisi; Yu Yangyi drew with Parham Maghsoodloo; Bibisara Assaubayeva drew with R. Vaishali; Elisabeth Paehtz bt Nurgyul Salimova; Jonas Buhl Bjerr drew with Volodar Murzin).
Alpine SG Pipers lost to PBG Alaskan Knights 7-9 (Magnus Carlsen bt Anish Giri; R. Praggnanandhaa lost to Nodirbek Abdusattorov; Richard Rapport drew with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov; Hou Yifan lost to Tan Zhongyi; Kateryna Lagno drew with Alina Kashlinskaya; Daniel Dardha drew with Nihal Sarin).
Triveni Continental Kings bt Upgrad Mumba Masters 12-3
(Firouzja Alireza bt Maxime Vachier-Lagrave; Wei Yi bt Vidit Gujrathi; Teimour Radjabov drew with Peter Svidler; Alexandra Kosteniuk drew with Koneru Humpy; Valentina Gunina bt D. Harika; Javokhir Sindarov drew with Raunak Sadhwani)
SG Pipers bt Gambits 9-7 (Carlsen drew with Nakamura; Praggnandhaa drew with Duda; Rapport drew with Yu; Hou bt Assaubayeva; Lagno lost to Paehtz; Dardha bt Bjerre).
(The correspondent is in London at the invitation of Tech Mahindra)

INBRIEF

Kriish Tyagi wins a double crown in Uzbekistan

Kriish Tyagi won a double crown in the ITF junior tennis tournament in Fergana, Uzbekistan. The 89th-ranked Kriish beat Zangar Nurlanuly of Kazakhstan 7-6(2), 6-3 in the singles final. The top-seeded Kriish did have an easy 6-1, 6-3 victory over Belarus' Ruslan Kastsijkevich in the semifinals, but had to negotiate three-setters in the earlier two rounds. The 17-year-old also won the doubles title in partnership with Dmitry Bessonov, as the duo beat Artem Bogomolov and Ivan Gretskiy 3-6, 6-3, [10-4] in the final.

Bagnaia wins Japan MotoGP ahead of c'ship leader Martin

Francesco Bagnaia won the Japan MotoGP ahead of championship front-runner Jorge Martin on Sunday to cut the Spaniard's lead in the overall standings to 10 points with four races remaining. The Italian defending world champion Bagnaia overtook pole-sitter Pedro Acosta on the first lap at Motegi and stayed in front to finish 1.189sec ahead of Martin with Marc Marquez third. "Jorge today was much stronger compared to the other day so I was just trying to manage the gap," said Bagnaia.

Padmini and Priyanka in joint lead

Defending champion Padmini Rout of Petroleum Sports Promotion Board posted a win over Tamil Nadu's V. Varshini in the fourth round of the 50th National women's chess championship at Karaikudi on Sunday. The victory takes Padmini to four points and puts her in joint lead with Tamil Nadu's K. Priyanka. The reigning champion overpowered the French defence of WGM Varshini on the top board and won in 40 moves by attacking the king's side. On the third board, Priyanka pulled off an upset victory over WGM Srija Seshadri.

Important results: Fourth round: Padmini Rout (PSPB, 4 points) bt Varshini (TN, 3); Kalyani Sirin (Ker, 3.5) drew with Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB, 3.5); K. Priyanka (TN, 4) bt Srija Seshadri (TN, 3); Swati Ghate (LIC, 3.5) drew with Isha Sharma (Kar, 3.5); Sakshi Chitlange (Mah, 3.5) drew with G Arya (Ker, 3.5); V. Sarayu (TS, 3.5) bt Yashvi Jain (TS) 3. P.V. Nandhidhaa (TN, 3.5) bt Divya Patil (Mah, 2.5); S. Jeevika (Puducherry, 3) drew with Vrushali (Mah, 3); M. Divyabharathi (TN, 3) bt J. Saranya (TN, 3); Rakshitta Ravi (TN, 3) bt K. Manasa (Kar, 2).

Flying Fury for the feature event

RACING

HYDERABAD: The three-year-old gelding Flying Fury should score over his rivals in the Mirza Zunnur Ahmed Memorial Cup, the chief event of Monday's (Oct. 7) races.

1 GOODWOOD PLATE (2,000m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.20 p.m.: 1. Sundance Kid (7) Kuldeep Sr. 60, 2. China Town (5) P. Ajeeth K 59.5, 3. Just Incredible (6) Surya Prakash 58, 4. See My Attitude (1) Likith Appu 57, 5. Caraxes (3) Md. Ismail 56.5, 6. Desert Hero (4) Gaurav 55.5 and 7. Das (2) G. Naresh 54.

1. SUNDANCE KID, 2. SEE MY ATTITUDE, 3. DESERT HERO

2 LOYAL MANAZAR PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.55: 1. Bold Beauty (3) P. Sai K 60, 2. City Cruise (9) R.S. Jodha 57.5, 3. Ashwa Yashvir (7) Gaurav 56, 4. Nkalanzinzi (6) P. Ajeeth K 55.5, 5. Smart Boy (4) B.R. Kumar 54, 6. Sadiya (8) Kuldeep Jr. 53.5, 7. Definite (1) G. Naresh 51.5, 8. Elegant Lady (5) Surya Prakash 52.5 and 9. N R I Star (2) Kuldeep Sr. 52.5.

1. BOLD BEAUTY, 2. NKLANZINZI, 3. ASHWA YASHVIR

3 NIRMAL PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.30: 1. Windsor (5) Akshay K 60, 2. Code Blue (3) Abhay Singh 58, 3. Master Touch (2) Mohit 55, 4. Arthisha (1) Mukesh 54.5, 5. Federer (8) P. Ajeeth K 54, 6. D Extreme (6) Surya Prakash 51.5, 7. Lights On (7) Md. Ekram 51, 8. Soorya Vahan (4) G. Naresh 50.5 and 9. Shivalik Model (9) B. Nikhil 50.

1. WINDSOR, 2. FEDERER, 3. SOORYA VAHAN

4 NAWAB MEHDI JUNG BAHADUR MEMORIAL CUP (1,100m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.05: 1. True Icon (5) Gaurav 60, 2. The Inheritor (2) Surya Prakash 59, 3. Alpine Girl (9) Mohit 58.5, 4. Runlikethewind (4) Afroz K 57.5, 5. Amyra (6) A.A. Vikrant 57, 6. Dyanoosh (12) B.R. Kumar 56, 7. Mark My Day (7) R.S. Jodha 56, 8. Sopranos (13) M. Mark 55.5, 9. Divine Connection (1) Md. Ekram 55, 10. Winning Attitude (8) Likith Appu 54.5, 11. Coming Home (3) B. Nikhil 51, 12. Crimson Rose (10) Abhay Singh 50.5 and 13. Inderdhanush (11) P. Ajeeth K 50.

1. AMYRA, 2. INDERDHANUSH, 3. COMING HOME

5 NIRMAL PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.40: 1. Queen Empress (3) B.R. Kumar 60, 2. Mr. Perfect (6) Mohit 58.5, 3. D Right Time (5) Surya Prakash 57, 4. Quality Warrior (8) Afroz K 56, 5. Jet Falcon (2) B. Nikhil 54.5, 6. Planet Super (9) Ajay K 54, 7. N R I Dheera (1) Kuldeep Sr. 51.5, 8. Club Queen (4) Md. Ekram 50.5 and 9. Mademoiselle (7) Abhay Singh 50.

1. PLANET SUPER, 2. QUEEN EMPRESS, 3. JET FALCON

6 MIRZA ZUNNUR AHMED MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.15: 1. Brooklyn Beauty (2) G. Naresh 60, 2. Oliver's Mount (6) Likith Appu 58, 3. Toffee (5) Md. Ekram 58, 4. Role Model (1) Gaurav 57.5, 5. First Class (7) B. Nikhil 56.5, 6. Flying Fury (4) Md. Ismail 55 and 7. Rolls Royce (3) R.S. Jodha 53.5.

1. FLYING FURY, 2. TOFFEE, 3. OLIVER'S MOUNT

7 LOYAL MANZAR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.50: 1. Sucker Punch (5) P. Ajeeth K 60, 2. Sweet Dancer (2) Kuldeep Jr. 58.5, 3. Golden Inzio (7) Ajay K 57.5, 4. Lady Jane (3) Md. Ekram 56, 5. Rare Vue (4) A.A. Vikrant 55, 6. Aos Si (8) Akshay K 54, 7. Anahita (1) G. Naresh 53 and 8. Glimmer Of Hope (6) Gaurav 53.

1. GLIMMER OF HOPE, 2. SUCKER PUNCH, 3. AOS SI

Day's Best: **WINDSOR**

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Mini Jackpot: 1, 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 5, 6 & 7.

Tanala: All races.

Beleaguered United battles to a goalless draw at Villa

Real Madrid sees off the challenge from Villarreal with goals from Valverde and Vinicius Jr.; Inter Milan has Marcus Thuram to thank for in its close win over Torino

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
BIRMINGHAM

Hat-trick hero: Thuram, left, heads home Inter's second against Torino. AP

Manchester United ground out a 0-0 draw at Aston Villa on Sunday in a Premier League game steeped in speculation about the future of the visitors' under-fire manager Erik ten Hag.

The draw sends Unai Emery's team into the international break in fifth in the table on 14 points after seven games, while United is languishing in 14th with eight points and still searching for its third win of the season.

Bruno Fernandes had the best chance of the game for either team, clanging a free kick off the crossbar from outside the box in the 68th minute. Antony then missed the target with the rebound and with keeper Emi Martinez out of his goal.

Strikes from Fede Valverde and Vinicius Junior helped Real Madrid bounce back from its first defeat since January with a 2-0 win over Villarreal on Saturday in La Liga. Los Blancos lost in the Champions League at Lille but is still unbeaten in the Spanish top flight. Valverde's deflected effort and a rocket from Vinicius allowed Madrid to put a four-point gap between it and its third-placed opponent.

Marcus Thuram shot Inter Milan second in Serie A with a hat-trick in Saturday's 3-2 win over 10-man Torino which moved the champion to within two points of league leader Napoli.

The results: Premier League: Aston Villa 0 drew with Manchester United 0; Chelsea 1 (Madueke 57) drew with Nottingham Forest 1 (Wood 49).

LaLiga: Girona 2 (Asprilla 39, Stuani 90+9-pen) bt Athletic Bilbao 1 (Sancet 42).

Serie A: Juventus 1 (Vlahovic 15-pen) drew with Cagliari 1 (Marin 88-pen); Bologna 0 drew with Parma 0.

On Saturday: LaLiga: Getafe 1 (Yildirim 21) drew with Osasuna 1 (Budimir 60); Valladolid 1 (Amallah 51) lost to Rayo Vallecano 2 (De Frutos 57, 80); Las Palmas 0 lost to Celta Vigo 1 (Iglesias 28); Real Madrid 2 (Valverde 14, Vinicius 73) bt Villarreal 0.

Serie A: Atalanta 5 (Retegui 24, 50, 74-pen, Ederson 60, De Roon 80) bt Genoa 1 (Ekhator 83); Inter Milan 3 (Thuram 25, 35, 60) bt Torino 2 (Zapata 36, Vlasic 86-pen).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Veda at the helm

Veda Krishnamurthy will lead Karnataka in the BCCI Senior Women's T20 Trophy to be held in Kolkata from October 17.

The squad: Veda Krishnamurthy (Capt.), Shubha Satheesh, Vrinda Dinesh, Divya Gnanananda, Niki Prasad, Prathyoosha Kumar, Mithila Vinod, Sahana S. Pawar, M. Pooja Kumari, Pushpa Kiresur, Roshini Kiran, Monica C. Patel, Aditi Rajesh, Soumya Verma, C. Prathyusha.

Karnataka gets the better of Chhattisgarh

Karnataka beat Chhattisgarh by five wickets in a BCCI U-19 Women's T20 Trophy match in Chennai.

The scores: Chhattisgarh 86/4 in 20 overs (Akanksha Rani 26) lost to Karnataka 90/5 in 18.1 overs (H. Bhavika Reddy 25, Shreya Shrivas 3/15).

Siddharth excels in Karnataka's win

Siddharth Akhil's all-round effort (60 and 3/35) helped Karnataka overcome Baroda by two runs (VJD method) in a rain-curtailed Vinoo Mankad U-19 Trophy encounter in Cuttack on Sunday.

The scores: Karnataka 243 in 49.1 overs (Siddharth Akhil 60, Dheeraj J. Gowda 35, Shivam Singh 82, Het G. Patel 4/30) bt Baroda 140/4 in 33 overs (Smit Rathva 53, Aman Khandelwal 26, Shlok J. Mehra 32 n.o., Siddharth Akhil 3/35). *By two runs, VJD method.*

Champion: The victorious FC Agniputhra squad with its big prize. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

FC Agniputhra's reign continues

FC Agniputhra defeated Bengaluru FC 5-3 on penalties to defend the UrbanRise C. Puttaiah Memorial Cup football tournament in Bengaluru on Sunday. The score was tied at 0-0 at full-time, necessitating the shoot-out.

The result: FC Agniputhra 0 bt Bengaluru FC 0 [5-3 on penalties].

Individual awards: Best goalkeeper: Micky Dias (Agniputhra); **player of the tournament:** Soham Varshneya (BFC); **top-scorer:** Saikhom Borish Singh (Kickstart).

Big win for Young Blues Elite

Young Blues Elite defeated Mysore Vijayanagara FA 5-2 in the U-17 Youth Premier League football competition in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The results: Roots FS 1 (Nandan 35) drew with The Sports School 1 (Arnav Meshram 61); Young Blues Elite 5 (Zela 8, Vedant 38, 47, Mokesh 54, Elroy Jacob Elvis 56) bt Mysore Vijayanagara FA 2 (Shishir 11, 74).

Kartik and Laxmi take the honours in Wipro Bengaluru Marathon

Kartik Kumar and K.M. Laxmi emerged the elite men's and women's winners respectively at the Wipro Bengaluru Marathon on Sunday. Kartik clocked 2:22.50s while Laxmi crossed the finish line in 3:00.21s.

The results: Men: 1. Kartik Kumar, 2:22.50s, 2. Pradeep Singh Chaudhary, 2:23.35, 3. Harshad Mhatre, 2:25.50. **Women:** 1. K.M. Laxmi, 3:00.21, 2. Ashvini Madan Jadhav, 3:12.42, 3. Jyoti Shankarrao Gawate 3:25.21.

Half-marathon: Men: 1. Ashok Bind, 1:12.05, 2. M. Nanjundappa, 1:12.53, 3. P. Manikanta 1:14.41. **Women:** 1. N.I. Thejaswini, 1:25.16, 2. Manisha Joshi, 1:35.12, 3. Bugalee Kumari Gurjar, 1:35.31. **10K: Men:** 1. Avik Bhattacharya, 40.18, 2. B. Vijay Kumar, 43.21, 3. R. Shivanand, 46.32. Women: 1. S. Bharthi, 56.06, 2. Kiyoko Hashimota 57.22, 3. Vaibhavi Vishwanath, 58.26.

The Best: The National championship winners Jagathishree Kumaresan, Kaushik Subbiah Ganesan, Jagan Kumar., Abdul Basim, and Sarthak Chavan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jagan signs off with spectacular finish

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Jagan Kumar (TVS Racing), the 'King of 165', bid adieu to his illustrious racing career after clinching his 11th National title to provide an emotional finish to the fifth and final round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2024 at the Madras International Circuit here on Sunday.

The results (Provisional, all 6 laps unless mentioned): National Championship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race-2): 1. Sarthak Chavan (11mins, 06.720secs), 2. Chiranth Vishwanath (11:08.130), 3. Deepak Ravikumar (11:08.848), (all TVS Racing). **Rider champion:** Sarthak. **Team champion:** TVS Racing.

Pro-Stock 165cc Open (Race-2): 1. Jagan Kumar (11:40.405), 2. Deepak (11:40.508), 3. K.Y. Ahamad (11:40.667), (all TVS Racing). **Rider champion:** Jagan. **Team champion:** TVS Racing.

Stock 301-400cc (Novice) Race-2: 1. Savion Sabu (Mad Rabbit Racing) (12:13.970), 2. C. Raj Kumar (RDX Torque Racing) (12:14.003), 3. Kaushik Subbiah Ganesan (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) (12:15.905). **Rider champion:** Kaushik. **Team champion:** RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate.

Novice (Stock 165cc) Race-2: 1. Tasmai Cariappa (Motul Sparks Racing) (12:59.465), 2. Kamal Navas (Rockers Racing) (13:00.752), 3. C.S. Kedarnath (Alpha Racing) (13:03.426). **Rider champion:** Abdul Basim (Rockers Racing). **Team champion:** Rockers Racing.

Girls (Stock 165cc) Race-2 (5 laps): 1. Rakshitha Dave (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) (11:05.170), 2. S.P. Shuria (One Racing) (11:17.947), 3. V. Aisvariya (Motul Sparks Racing)

Bengaluru's Savion Sabu.

(11:20.239). **Rider champion:** Jagathishree Kumaresan (One Racing). **Team champion:** One Racing.

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (NSF 250R) Race-2 (8 laps): 1. Savion Sabu (15:03.809), 2. Mohsin Paramban (15:10.876), 3. Beedani Rajender (15:17.258). **Rider champion:** Mohsin Paramban.

TVS Racing One-Make Championship–Open (Apache RR 310) Race-2: 1. Manoj Yesuadiyan (11:42.927), 2. C. Senthilkumar (11:47.034), 3. P. Jayanth (11:51.216). **Rider champion:** C. Senthilkumar.

Rookie (Apache RTR 200) Race-2: 1. Akarsh Jangam (13:17.500), 2. Harshith V Bogar (13:17.929), 3. C.S. Kedarnadh (13:18.113). **Rider champion:** Harshith V. Bogar.

TVS RTE Electric (3 laps): 1. Sarthak (05:22.071), 2. A. Alwin Sundar (05:27.526), 3. Chiranth (05:34.935). **Rider champion:** Sarthak.

Media (Apache RTR 200, 5 laps): 1. Praveen Kumar (11:22.005), 2. G. Charan Karthik (11:28.044), 3. Pratheek Kunder (11:34.651). **Rider champion:** Praveen Kumar.

LIVE TELECAST

Pakistan vs England: 1st Test, day 1, FanCode, 11 a.m.

Ireland vs South Africa: 3rd ODI, FanCode, 5 p.m.

Global Chess League: JioCinema, 5.30 p.m. onwards

Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

England a force even without Stokes: Masood

Agence France-Presse
MULTAN

Pakistan captain Shan Masood warned on the eve of Monday's first Test in Multan that his side would still be facing a formidable England, despite the absence of their captain Ben Stokes.

"England's strength will not lessen with one individual (missing)," he warned. "They are still very competitive."

Bengaluru City wins overall championship

DASARA CM CUP GAMES

Correspondent
MYSURU

Bengaluru City with 201 points won the overall championship in the Dasara CM Cup Games 2024, which concluded at the Chamundivihar sports complex here on Sunday.

A superior performance by Bengaluru City in the team games helped it retain the title it won last year. Mysuru finished second with 194 points and Belagavi with 131 was third.

Mysuru with 200 points (12g, 12s, 14b) topped the athletics events and was followed by Bengaluru City with 138 points (9g, 11s, 5b).

M.S. Zafar Khan (Belagavi, long jump gold, 7.53m, 1035 points) in the men's section and M. Megha of Belagavi (400m, 55.57s, 992 points) won the individual men's and women's titles.

In the only athletic event of the day, Belagavi's Nagaraj – he had won the 5000m gold on day one – won the gold in the men's 10,000m with a new meet record of 32:31.23s.

Zafar Khan and Megha, the individual titlists.

On top: Bengaluru City sportspersons who reigned supreme. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: Men: Athletics (winner only): 10,000m: Nagaraj (Belagavi, NMR, OR: Govinda Halagi, Belagavi, 33:24.47s).

Ball badminton: 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Bengaluru Rural.

Football: 1. Mysuru, 2. Kalburgi, 3. Belagavi.

Handball: 1. Bengaluru Rural, 2. Mysuru, 3. Bengaluru City.

Hockey: 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Mysuru, 3. Bengaluru Rural.

Kabaddi: 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Belagavi.

Kho-kho: 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Mysuru.

Throw ball: 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Mysuru, 3. Bengaluru Rural.

Volleyball: 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Belagavi.

Basketball: 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Mysuru, 3. Bengaluru Rural.

Netball: 1. Bengaluru Rural 2. Mysuru, 3. Bengaluru City.

Table tennis: 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Mysuru, 3. Belagavi.

Fencing: 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Mysuru, 3. Bengaluru Rural.

Women: Ball badminton: 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Bengaluru Rural.

Handball: 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Bengaluru City.

Hockey: 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Belagavi.

Kabaddi: 1. Belagavi, 2. Mysuru, 3. Bengaluru City.

Kho-kho: 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Kalaburgi.

Throwball: 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Bengaluru Rural.

Volleyball: 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Belagavi.

Basketball: 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Bengaluru Rural.

Netball: 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Mysuru, 3. Kalaburgi.

Tennis: 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Bengaluru City.

Fencing: 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Kalaburgi, 3. Mysuru.

Indian squad for Sultan of Johor Cup

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

P.R. Sreejesh's first assignment in his new role began on Sunday with the naming of an 18-member squad for the upcoming Sultan of Johor Cup to be held later this month.

Sreejesh picked his squad along with the selection committee with the experienced Amir Ali named as captain.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Bikramjit Singh, Ali Khan; **defenders:** Amir Ali, Talem Priyobarta, Shardanand Tiwari, Sukhvinder, Anmol Ekka, Rohit; **midfielders:** Ankit Pal, Manmeet Singh, Rosan Kujur, Mukesh Toppo, Chandan Yadav; **forwards:** Gurjot Singh, Sourabh Anand Kushwaha, Dilraj Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd. Konain Dad.